New McDonald's opens in Yigo. PAGE 3
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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 233

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2018 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

DPS deploys more officers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following a reported increase in the number of break-ins since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in late October, the Department of Public Safety has deployed more police officers to patrol Saipan after dark.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero said that about 16 or 17 burglaries were reported to the department following Super Typhoon Yutu. Many involved homes and establishments. He, however, said this is already a large drop compared to the number of break-ins after Typhoon Soudelor in 2015

See DPS on Page 4

DNAP 'likely' to process aid through the weekend

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Numbering site moved to NAP office

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the department that administers the Nutritional Assistance Program and the Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program in the CNMI, might continue the disaster assistance application process through Sunday.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the DNAP application processing for numbers beyond D07400 is likely to continue through Sunday but that has yet to be finalized.

"…We don't think we are going to [have a] break. We might go right into Sunday

See DNAP on Page 4

Tinian and Rota got over $800K DNAP

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both Tinian and Rota were able to avail of over $800,000 in Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance for back-to-back typhoons that devastated the islands and its residents.

According to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, the department was able to hand out $451,943 in DNAP assistance and $16,090 in supplemental nutritional assistance in response to Typhoon Mangkhut, while the department was able to hand out $342,397 in DNAP assistance and $16,513 in supplemental nutritional assistance in response to Typhoon Yutu.

"They both went really smoothly," said Hunter. He noted that Tinian was

See TINIAN on Page 4

CNMI's top market is back

Members of the Marianas Visitors Authority marking department place shell leis over the shoulders of Korean tourists, including children, who were among 168 passengers of Jeju Air that arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Tuesday afternoon. It was Jeju Air's first international flight to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction on Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25 shut down Saipan airport's operations. Korea is CNMI's top market in tourist arrivals. MVA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Jeju Air returns with 168 passengers from Seoul

The CNMI's top tourist market, South Korea, is back after Jeju Air resumed international flights to Saipan, arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Tuesday afternoon with 168 passengers.

Jeju Air came in from Incheon, Seoul, at 3:10pm.

Marianas Visitors Authority staff greeted its passengers at the airport with a welcome banner and pre-

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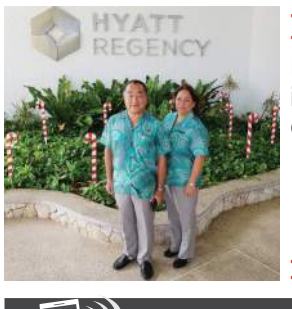
INSIDE



LOCAL
Hyatt Regency Saipan is celebrating 38 years of being in the CNMI.

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LOCAL
Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog is the featured speaker at a tourism conference in China.

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LOCAL
E-Land Group has been working with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

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Local

Brown to look into employees' claims, needs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Mark Brown said he would check on the claims made by the workers who were recently laid-off by the company and look into their needs.

IPI laid off close to 160 of its CW employees, most of whom are working as casino dealers. It may, however, be too late since some of the employees have already left the island since early Thursday morning.

As of Wednesday, the employees claimed that they have not yet received their paychecks, which were supposed to be given two days before their flight, with some already scheduled to leave yesterday. More employees are expected to be sent home in the coming days.

Brown met with representatives of the group of workers last Saturday at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Chambre Bar. They said that Brown did not promise them anything, aside from saying that he would try his best to help their plight. They were also thankful for the gesture he made in meeting with them.

Brown returned to lead IPI last month and arrived on Saipan a few days after Super Typhoon Yutu ravaged the island and Tinian.

"We staged a protest because we want someone from top management to…answer some of our questions. He [Brown] was our last hope that could help us convince Mr. Ji [Xiaobo] and the owners to give us a proper severance pay and not just seven days," said the representatives in a statement.

More than 50 of the laid-off employees staged an impromptu protest action last week in front of the construction site of the Imperial Pacific Resort.

"Mr. Brown was surprised when we told him that IPI did not help us after Super Typhoon Yutu and he arrived in the first week of November. But, the other issues and rumors were cleared. We just wanted a bit of an assurance that if things improved, those of us who still have valid CW permits could return to work again in the casino," the employees said.

They said some of the workers had just been renewed while others still had 10 months left on their CW permits when they were laid off. "Hopefully, he could help turn our Christmas merry again… He is our last hope and a lot of us are wishing that something would happen."

Other answers

They said that Brown explained to them that IPR was allowed by the local Department of Labor to lay off some employees after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu.

He told them that the company could also not give out the 50 percent discretionary bonus since they are currently out of cash and, based on their contract, would only be given a severance pay of seven days.

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New McDonald's opens in Yigo

The grand opening McDonald's Yigo branch was held last Nov. 17 in the presence of, from left, Yigo Mayor Rudy Matanane, McDonald's general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., Saipan and Guam McDonald's owners Joe and Marcia Ayuyu with their grandchild, Hanalei Moana Ayuyu, CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and first lady Diane Torres.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The McDonald's chain of restaurants in the Marianas has opened a new branch at the corner of Route 1 and Chalan Kujuna in Yigo, Guam last Nov. 17, believed to be the first McDonald's in Guam to have new and upscale exterior and interior décor that is aligned with its cotemporaries in the U.S. mainland.

Jose C. Ayuyu, president and owner of Saipan and Guam McDonald's, is excited as this is no ordinary branch.

The exterior has a welcoming and inviting entry into the restaurant, a clear and identifiable double-lane and automated beverage system in the drive-through for enhanced service for on-the-go customers and bright digital menu boards.

The interior décor consists of comfortable lighting levels and fixtures that allow customers to have a pleasant dining experience and modern seating and furniture that includes booths, chairs, high seats and tables and lounge-style areas. Bright digital menu is also available indoors and free WiFi is a bonus.

"We're changing with the times and we never stop looking for ways to improve," said Ayuyu. "This new McDonald's speaks to the needs of our customers and our community. …We want our customers to enjoy every part of the McDonald's experience."

McDonald's Yigo branch taps into modern technology, enabling customers to have more choices in ordering their meals.

Aside from over-the-counter ordering, there are convenient and easy-to use touch order kiosks with four screens. After ordering from the kiosk, meals will be delivered at your table.

Ordering via mobile is now possible with the McDonald's app. Use the app to order and pay on your phone and pick up the food at any McDonald's. The restaurant will have a seating capacity for 52 customers and served by 70-75 employees.

In an earlier interview by *Saipan Tribune* with McDonald's general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., he said that Saipan and Guam's economy are on the rise. "With this, there is a possibility to open more stores. I think we would look into that first before branching out into other businesses."

"I haven't talked to the boss about that, but what I can say about my dad is he is an entrepreneur as he is always looking for new things… We are just really proud of him. I know that his friends, family, and the people of Saipan are proud of what he's done and what kind of example he sets for us," Ayuyu Jr. added.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan are locally owned and operated by franchisees Joe and Marcia Ayuyu and is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Marianas, with over 500 employees. The organization opened in 1993 and currently operates eight McDonald's branches: two on Saipan and six in Guam.

Ayuyu enjoys being part of the McDonald's company and having a family-run business on Saipan and Guam.

Ayuyu and his wife, Marcia, are joined by their daughter Ashley Ayuyu in running the business in Guam as human resources director of McDonald's.

McDonald's Yigo branch's double lane drive-through ensure fast and efficient service.

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‘PH is open to working with CNMI’

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ranking official of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs noted that the country is open to working with the CNMI in terms of long-term recovery assistance for its nationals in the Northern Marianas.

Enrico Fos, executive director of the Office of Migrant Workers Affairs at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, while a definitive decision to send assistance from the Philippines has yet to be confirmed, the Asian country is open to negotiations with the CNMI for long-term construction and recovery assistance.

» No definite decision on assistance to Filipinos

“In the Philippines, there are a lot of skilled workers in the construction industry. If there is an opening for these people to come here and help out—hired by constructions companies here—I believe the Philippines is a good source of that manpower,” Fos said. “This is one of the possible assistance of the Philippines to the CNMI.”

“…It may be complicated, but at the end of the day, there is a need; a matching skill for the need; and if there is a company willing to hire [from the Philippines] at a decent condition, it would be possible,” he said.

When asked if the Philippine government would be sending assistance to the CNMI, Fos noted that nothing is final.

“…There is no decision yet whether we can send assistance,” he said. “At the same time…we have discovered that there is assistance not just for U.S. citizens but for everyone,” adding that U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency benefits, the Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program, and the CNMI Department of Labor’s Disaster Unemployment Assistance are available to most Filipinos in the CNMI.

Fos spent two days on Saipan meeting with Filipino organizations. While he did not disclose which specific organizations he met, he noted that the purpose of his visit was to gather information on the situation of Filipinos affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. He was accompanied by DFA’s Hermogenes “Jun” Cayabyab, Philippine Consulate General in Guam vice consul Alex Vallespin, and CNMI honorary consul Glicerio “Eli” Arago during his meeting with press secretary Kevin Bautista and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog yesterday at the Governor’s Office on Capital Hill.

“[The CNMI] is in the phase of reconstruction and rehabilitation—[the CNMI] is no longer in the initial relief phase,” he noted. “…If ever there is a need for more assistance, that is where we will concentrate,” he said.

Fos noted that, based on his talks with several Filipino organizations, the Saipan local government’s main are construction workers.

“We have plenty of that,” he said, while adding that he noticed the speed of recovery on the island. “The island is almost on the brink of recovery—normalcy is fast becoming a reality here and long-term rehabilitation is beginning to be implemented,” he said.

BACK TO GUAM
Members of the U.S. Army Reserves board a C-130J Super Hercules to go back to Guam at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Nov. 28, 2018.
U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JOSHUA J. GARCIA

TINIAN

From Page 1

prioritized for Super Typhoon Yutu because it was hit harder.

“…Unfortunately for Saipan distributions, it is a much larger population and it is a much more [supervised] process here; it includes more federal involvement,” he said.

He noted that for Rota, all went well for Typhoon Mangkhut disaster nutritional assistance response except for the fact that their nine staff was stranded due to Typhoon Yutu at the time.

“It all went well and we were able to put out [close to a million for both islands],” Hunter noted.

As of Wednesday, 3pm, *Saipan Tribune* learned that DNAP numbers for Saipan were already at 17,374.

DNAP assistance processing has yet to conclude for Saipan; however they have been processing a quota of at least 1,000 daily since Monday, while Hunter previously noted that over 2,000 DNAP applications were processed the day prior.

DPS

From Page 1

when “we had generators just walking away.”

He said the 16 or 17 burglaries reported to police were “regular break-ins and people stealing cash and things of that nature.”

Because of the number of reported burglaries, the department has decided to deploy more officers in villages.

“I think we have [been doing better] because our officers have been more vigilant… we shifted more of our guys to work at night and less in the day…concentrating more in the villages…That's why our burglary cases aren’t as much as anticipated and that was our worst worry. …Our worst fear was burglary picking up, as experienced after Soudelor,” he said.

Guerrero said that police officers are more vigilant in terms of picking up suspects or those involved in burglary cases.

“We’ve had a couple of burglaries but they haven’t been getting out of hand. We’ve also picked up a couple of people who either committed the burglaries or had something to do with the burglaries,” he said.

Guerrero said that although officers have already been deployed, there are people who will continue to try to outsmart the system. The most recent instance was consecutive break-ins in Gualo Rai.

“Right now, the burglaries at Gualo Rai are under investigation… we’re working with the owners of the burglarized places to find out what exactly was taken…we’re working closely on those cases,” he said.

According to a Gualo Rai resident who requested anonymity, his neighbor’s home was burglarized a few days ago and the 670 Rocksteady shop and the Poki Yaki restaurant was broken into a day before.

“We have many dogs in our compound that bark at everyone…so either the perp was known by the dogs or they used bait like food to shut them up,” he said.

Because of the consecutive break-ins, villagers are on their toes.

Guerrero is asking for the community’s assistance by notifying authorities if they have any information regarding break-ins or if they see any suspicious activity.

“People might think that it’s just little…but regardless if it's a small or big case, we take it seriously, like we do with every other case that comes in…We’re all going through the recovery process and our concern is to keep the CNMI safe. …If you see a suspicious person or vehicle around, call us. Don't wait until its too late,” he said.

CNMI

From Page 1

sented each one with shell leis.

MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim said the return of visitors from the CNMI’s top market is a huge break.

“Jeju Air is continuing its daily daytime operational flights starting today [Wednesday], so we should see the numbers of visitors under the Korea market grow rapidly,” Kim said.

On Tuesday, Sichuan Airlines also resumed international flights to the CNMI and arrived at the airport carrying 255 passengers from Guangzhou, China.

China Eastern Airlines was set to resume international flights last Wednesday, from Beijing, China.

Beijing Capital Airlines was set to arrive yesterday afternoon from Hangzhou, China.

Hong Kong Airlines will resume flights yesterday midnight, from Hong Kong. Sichuan Airlines was also set to arrive early morning yesterday from Shanghai, China.

Hong Kong Express was the first commercial airline to resume international flights to the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu’s destruction on Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25. The airline company arrived on Saipan last Friday with full load of 180 passengers.

DNAP

From Page 1

with D08400 and Monday with D09400 and so forth,” he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the same number of applicants would be processed daily.

Hunter added that the DNAP number distribution at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion was discontinued and relocated back to the NAP office in As Lito since the volume of people getting DNAP numbers for processing was greatly reduced since the relocation of the numbering site last Monday.

Hunter previously told *Saipan Tribune* that he has already obtained the verbal green light to extend DNAP distributions by a week since the volume of applications was massive.

However, Hunter noted that although federal NAP officials were involved in the planning of the DNAP distributions, only a written document would make the approval of the weeklong extensions of the DNAP official.

Even so, Hunter noted that it was “likely” that DNAP processing continues through Sunday. He added that some of the volunteers wished to continue processing the numbers without breaks as originally proposed by U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services officials.

“…The workers wanted to continue. Otherwise, we would have a break on Sunday,” he said, reiterating that it was not yet official. “…I can’t say it is official until I get that written statement from the FNS.”

Due to the volume of DNAP applicants, only 1,000 are being processed and vetted daily. Supplemental NAP applications are processed at 250 daily, according to the announcement last Tuesday.

The announcement further noted that for DNAP numbers D07400 and beyond, a new announcement would be made once confirmation on the extension has been approved . As of Thursday afternoon, Hunter noted no such approval.

Taxi driver found to be overstaying tourist

Federal agents arrested in Garapan on Tuesday a taxi driver who allegedly later admitted that he is an overstaying tourist and has a fake CNMI driver's license.

Cong Chen, 28, a Chinese national, was taken before the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday morning after the Homeland Security Investigations charged him with conspiracy to produce a false identification document.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set a detention hearing for Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 9am. Chen was then remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal pending further proceedings.

Benjamin Petersburg, on behalf of appointed defense counsel Bruce Berline, appeared as counsel for Chen. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the complaint filed in court by HSI special agent Michael D. Lansangan, last Tuesday a Federal Protective Service inspector encountered an individual at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan who was illegally parked.

During record checks, HSI discovered that a person named Cong Chen had overstayed his CNMI conditional parole. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Year-end celebration on Dec. 29

On Dec. 29, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its tourism partners will host the Marianas Strong Year-end Celebration at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, from 5pm to 10pm. The celebration will also be highlighted by the Mochitsuki Festival, featuring the Japan tradition of rice pounding in preparation for the new year. The Christmas in the Marianas celebration, previously scheduled for Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2018, is cancelled. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact the MVA at info@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3200/1. ***(PR)***

Saipan chamber meeting this Dec.

The December membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan next Wednesday, Dec. 5. Lunch will begin at 11:30am and the meeting will follow promptly at 12pm. Guest speakers are still being confirmed. ***(PR)***

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Availability of materials a challenge, says CUC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The availability of materials needed to restore power and water on Saipan and Tinian after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction has been a challenge to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho.

Camacho said that materials have become a big issue for many utility agencies because of the large fires in California, a hurricane in Mexico Beach in Florida, and another hurricane in North Carolina.

"That's my understanding, that was the large fire ever recorded in history in the U.S.," said Camacho in an interview last Wednesday. "Fortunately, it is my understanding that materials have been identified for our needs and should be and are being processed for delivery."

He said a lot of utility workers are working on the south side of Saipan—the area worst hit by Yutu.

"We got As Lito Road all the way down to near Guangdong, if not further. Poles have been erected all the way on Beach Road to San Antonio," he said.

Camacho said a group is focused on building the power primary lines system to energize some of the establishments in those areas.

He said they are ready for more materials to come in as flights will be coming in later this week with power poles.

"The challenge is just to continue with the effort. I'm very proud of everybody, both folks from off-island and CUC, for the commitment that they have on a daily basis—6am to 7pm everyday, sometimes to 9pm to continue to work and continue to build out as quickly as we can for the folks that don't have power," Camacho said.

MHS team wins app challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A team of Marianas High School students won this year's Congressional App Challenge in the Northern Marianas, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday.

Ian Rei Cataluna, Mimi Sakano, Guaen Yang, and Celina Wu worked as a team to design the winning submission. Their *Health Buddy: Diabetes* app bested 12 other entries to the district-level coding competition.

"Congratulations to Ian Rei, Mimi, Guaen, and Celina on their innovative and educational app," Sablan said. "Their app is testament not just to their coding expertise, but also to their commitment to our community."

Health Buddy: Diabetes is an Android app that provides medical information about diabetes. It includes resources available—both physically and online—to the many Marianas residents who suffer from the disease. Future upgrades include a personal medicine scheduler, iOS and web-based versions of the app, and a series of apps for other diseases.

Along with other App Challenge winners from across the country, *Health Buddy* will be eligible for display in the U.S. Capitol. And the Marianas High School team will be invited to attend the House of Code reception, scheduled for spring next year in Washington, D.C. Their fellow Dolphins, Daniel Villarmero and Chenoa Bunts-Anderson, who won last year's competition, showcased *The Student Companion* app at the same reception in Washington, D.C. last April.

Sablan also extended his congratulations to the 24 other students who worked individually or in teams to participate in the competition.

The runners-up include two game apps designed by teams from Mount Carmel School: *DODGE! BUB* by Suhwan Bae and Hyo Lim Cho, and *One of those Nights* by Joanie Paraiso, Angelo Manese, and Gary Camacho.

"All of this year's participants displayed impressive creativity and programming skills. They can be proud of their work," Sablan said.

The Congressional App Challenge aims to promote computer science and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education by giving students an opportunity to have their creations recognized by their member of Congress.

The competition is open to all students in grades K-12, regardless of coding experience. Submissions were evaluated based on creativity, design, and demonstrated programming skills. Selection of the winning entry was made by volunteer judges Dana Bullister of the computer software company Project Zen, Ed Knoeckel of Howell Cheney Technical High School, and Dr. Mollie Ramon of La Joya Independent School District. ***(PR)***

NMI resident gets diplomatic award

A resident of the CNMI was awarded a diplomatic award by the Japanese government in mid-November, recognizing her many contributions and assistance to Japanese nationals in the Commonwealth.

NMI resident Kazuko Sumitomo was one of the recipients of the 2018 Autumn Imperial Decoration. Specifically, she was bestowed the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays, one of seven ribbons of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

"…She made many contributions, particularly assisting Japanese residents and tourists who, unfortunately, have suffered from various accidents," a statement from the Japanese Consulate in the CNMI states.

Sumitomo was an employee of the Japanese Consulate in the CNMI from March 1985 up to late 2013.

Sumitomo, along with her husband Junichi Sumitomo, was conferred the decoration in Tokyo, Japan by Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Kono last Nov. 8, 2018. She is the first Japanese resident in the CNMI to be awarded the decoration.

Four years before, on May 29, 2014, Sumitomo was awarded the Consul-General's Commendations for her contribution in promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the CNMI, the Japanese Consulate noted.

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, a Japanese order established on Jan. 4, 1888, was originally awarded in eight classes. Since 2003 onwards, the lowest two classes of medals were abolished.

The order was originally a male-only decoration. Since 1919, it was made available to women. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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9th Circuit reverses couple's convictions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has reversed the conviction of a woman for harboring an illegal alien and the conviction of her husband for aiding and abetting the crime, saying the judge's instruction to the jury was erroneous and may have affected the outcome of the trial.

The Ninth Circuit judges held that the evidence—viewed in light most favorable to the U.S. government—was enough to establish that Lili Zhang Tydingco harbored an illegal alien and that Francisco Muna Tydingco helped Lili Tydingco commit crime.

However, the Ninth Circuit judges held that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's instruction defining "harbor" was erroneous because it did not require the jury to find that the Tydingcos intended to violate the law, and the error was not harmless.

The judges said the District Court's instruction defining "reckless disregard" was erroneous because it did not require the jury to find that Lili Tydingco subjectively drew an inference that the alien was, in fact, an alien and was in the United States unlawfully.

The panel held that the instruction may have affected the outcome of the trial, and the error constitutes a miscarriage of justice, warranting a new trial, because the jury could have convicted the couple on an invalid legal theory.

With the reversal of the convictions, the Ninth Circuit remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

Circuit Judge Susan P. Graber issued the opinion. Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas and U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Washington Robert S. Lasnik, who was sitting in the panel by designation, agreed with the ruling.

A federal grand jury indicted the couple for allegedly receiving money to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled at a public school.

In June 2016, a federal court jury rendered a unanimous guilty verdict finding Lili Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and Francisco Tydingco guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring.

On Dec. 9, 2016, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 10 months in prison, with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Tydingco to 21 months in prison, with credit for time served.

The Tydingcos, through their counsel Steven Pixley and Bruce Berline, appealed.

Manglona has granted the couple's motions to remain free pending their appeal.

According to Homeland Security Investigations Task Force officer Jesse Dubrall, the child's purported uncle, Rongxue Liu, stated in an interview that he paid Lili Tydingco $7,000 in exchange for helping him enter into a fake marriage and obtain a green card.

Dubrall said the parents of the child admitted that they agreed to pay Lili Tydingco between $15,000 and $20,000 to take their child to Saipan and get her a green card.

In September 2013, the Tydingco couple traveled from Saipan to China, Lili Tydingco's native country, with their two children.

Lili Tydingco is a legal permanent resident of the U.S. through her marriage to Francisco Tydingco.

While in China, the Tydingco couple met a man, who asked them to take his 10-year-old child X.N., a Chinese national, to Saipan to attend school in the U.S.

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■ Clean up debris as soon as possible.

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■ Photograph the make, model, and serial number of appliances and electronics. Take these particular items to the drop-off locations for household hazardous waste, white goods, and electronics.

■ Immediately throw away items that pose a health risk, such as perishable food. Any flooded or otherwise contaminated food items should be discarded unless they are in undamaged cans or commercially sealed glass jars. Sanitize the container before opening it.

Sanitize pots, pans, utensils, dishes, glassware, and other items you intend to keep.

Before starting any structural work, get a building permit from your local building authorities.

If you applied to FEMA for disaster assistance, the agency may send an inspector to your home. If you have waited longer than 30 days, call FEMA at 800-621-3362. ***(PR)***

ROE deadline is Dec. 8

The CNMI is implementing this temporary emergency tent and roofing installation program, called Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is funding and coordinating the efforts of U.S. Department of Defense partners.

The CNMI and DOD are providing debris clearance, debris translation, and tent installation.

The CNMI is the sole entity determining who will receive tents.

To apply for the program, residents must complete a Right of Entry form. ROEs may be obtained by visiting the FEMA Saipan Disaster Recovery Center at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe or Fire Station 4 in Koblerville.

For questions, on Saipan, call: (670) 664-9083.

The deadline for ROE submissions is Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018. ***(PR)***

‘Rasa helped my political career’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) has fond memories of former House speaker Oscar C. Rasa, whom he credits with helping shape his political career, since his days as a senator in the first and second CNMI Youth Congress until he became a member of the Legislature.

Rasa died on Nov. 11 at the Commonwealth Health Center after battling a long illness. He was laid to rest at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery a week after.

Demapan, one of the six GOP lawmakers in the 19th Legislature and a member of the Republican majority in the 20th, said Rasa will always be remembered as one of the Commonwealth’s fathers.

“When history books tell stories of our forefathers, the name Oscar C. Rasa will always be on that list of esteemed leaders who helped frame the structure of government in the Commonwealth that we live in today,” said Demapan.

Rasa, aside from being the first speaker of the CNMI’s inaugural Legislature, was a delegate to the CNMI Constitutional Convention and former member of the local Covenant negotiating team. He was also one of the senators in the 5th Congress of Micronesia serving on the Joint Committee on the Future Political Status for Micronesia.

Rasa was one of Demapan’s advisers when it came to political matters, particularly when he became chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in the 20th Legislature.

He would seek the advice of Rasa, whom he called Uncle Oscar. “He had a personality unlike any other. He was generous in passing on his knowledge. He was straightforward and told it like it was.”

“He was a little too honest sometimes, because he would tell you the truth event if it hurt. But that is what I and those whom he loved admired about him. He never sugar-coated anything. A spade was always going to be a spade. Nothing more, nothing less.”

Demapan said Rasa always began his day at 5am by calling his friends. “I’m sure many have gotten calls from Uncle Oscar as early as 6am. I used to look at my phone and say, ‘*Si* Uncle Oscar, he didn’t even give me time to brush my teeth.’”

“But on the other side of the phone line was a man already full of energy and ready to talk about case laws, constitutional provisions or campaign strategies.”

He added that Rasa was also a strong supporter of education, with a bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of Guam and a master’s degree in education in general social science with emphasis in government at the American University in Washington, D.C. Rasa also holds lifetime instructor credentials.

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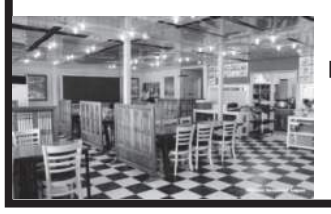
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Opinion

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 233

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The (somewhat obvious) ethical problems with creating gene-edited babies

It has long been a scientific dream: to inoculate people against terrible diseases before they're born. Now a team of doctors based in China has dangled that possibility in front of us by claiming it has edited the DNA of two human embryos during in vitro fertilization. The goal of the project was to protect the two (who are now twin baby girls) from HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

If this was intended to be a gift to the world, though, it came in ugly wrapping. The principal investigator didn't bother with such scientific protocols as peer review and publishing in a respected journal. Instead, he made claims about his results informally to a colleague at a conference, granted an interview to the Associated Press and posted a video on YouTube. He offered no evidence or independent corroboration that his experiment succeeded.

And if indeed it did take place as described, it unquestionably crossed all sorts of ethical and safety lines.

The reaction was explosive. The hospital named in documents filed by researcher He Jiankui says that neither the research nor the birth of the twins happened there. The Chinese government, though it has not outlawed genetic experimentation on human embryos, launched an investigation into the ethics of the project. More than 100 Chinese scientists issued a statement condemning He's actions, saying his team harmed the reputation of research from their nation.

Until now, research on gene editing has been restricted to faulty embryos in cases in which it was clear that children would be born with horrible illnesses. Even then, such research has been hotly debated, as it should be. While it is tremendously exciting to think that researchers might be able one day to switch off genes that predispose people to breast cancer, say, or Alzheimer's disease, gene editing raises all sorts of other troubling questions. Even leaving aside worries about eugenics and genetically designed superbabies bred for looks or athletic skills, there's also the fact that gene editing isn't just a treatment for an individual. It changes the human genome; if successful, it will be passed on to future generations and spread through the population.

In some cases, that could be a good thing. But there could also be unintended consequences that might more than offset any positive effects. Gene editing can accidentally change genes other than those targeted in ways scientists can't foresee. Or, in the case of the latest research claim, the Associated Press reported that the work involved disabling a gene that allows HIV to enter cells. The problem, it further reported, is that people who lack the normal version of that gene have higher risks of dying from flu or falling ill with West Nile virus. Flu kills hundreds of thousands of people a year.

The new research is especially disturbing because, although the father of the twins is HIV positive, the chance of transmission was small. This experiment on human childrens might or might not help prevent a disease that they were un-

See BABIES on Next Page

How Congress can start to fix our broken immigration system

By DAVID INSERRA
The Heritage Foundation

David Inserra is a policy analyst for homeland security and cybersecurity at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

Immigration is always a hot topic, but the migrant caravan has really brought it to a boil. Many have seen pictures of women and children fleeing to the U.S. or men throwing rocks and other projectiles at the U.S. border patrol.

What should Americans make of this chaos? Why are there now caravans of "asylum seekers" and increasing numbers of women and children crossing the border illegally?

Surprisingly, the total amount of illegal immigration is significantly down from where it was a decade ago. In 2008, the U.S. apprehended just over 1 million individuals trying to cross the U.S. border illegally. In fiscal year 2018, it was just under 400,000—and fewer illegal aliens are slipping through undetected.

Yet certain types of migration are increasing. Specifically, unaccompanied children and family units are up. Fewer than 20,000 unaccompanied children crossed the border in 2010, but that number topped 68,000 in FY 2014. It has dipped since then, but was around 50,000 in FY 2018.

The number of family units has also surged from just over 11,000 in FY 2012 to over 100,000 in FY 2018.

The number of requests for asylum and subsequent "credible fear" interviews has also spiked. In 2008, just over 5,000 credible-fear referrals were made. In 2016, it was almost 92,000.

Why? Largely because multiple U.S. laws have glaring loopholes that encourage the illegal immigration of children and families and the use of asylum claims as the preferred method to enter the U.S.

When "unaccompanied alien children" (UACs) from countries other than Mexico or Canada cross the border illegally, the well-intentioned Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 demands not that we quickly return them to family in their home country, but that we essentially treat them as victims of human trafficking. This is true even if a parent illegally in the U.S. paid for them to be smuggled into the U.S.

The result is that they are quickly connected with family in the U.S. or placed in foster care while they await an immigration court hearing that could be years away. Of course many of these children never show up for their hearing. As a result, less than 5 percent of UACs are removed from the U.S.

Similarly, when an illegal immigrant family crosses the border, the U.S. government is not allowed to detain the child. The 1997 Flores Settlement mandates that unaccompanied children can't be detained for more than 20 days. But in 2016, the 9th Circuit Court decided that this applied to all children, even those accompanied by parents.

When the parents claim asylum, as many now do, it takes more than 20 days to adjudicate their cases. So the U.S. government has a choice: Do they release the child but detain the parents who have broken the law by illegally entering the U.S. and not had their asylum claims adjudicated? Or release the entire family?

The U.S. would prefer to keep families together in custody awaiting the outcome of their cases, but it is simply not allowed to.

But wait, some say – asylum-seeking isn't illegal. There is a legal way to do it (at a port of entry) and an illegal way (sneak into the U.S. and then, after being arrested, claim asylum). With the right words and a little coaching, many asylum-seekers pass the credible-fear screening, but fewer than 10 percent of Hondurans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans end up qualifying for asylum.

Society-wide violence, jobs or reuniting with family are not grounds for asylum. Knowing this, many never show up for court. They simply live illegally in the U.S. once released.

To discourage illegal immigration, the U.S. must change these incentives. Congress should make it much harder for those crossing the border illegally to claim asylum.

Lawmakers should first adjust the asylum-claim process. One way is to first require asylum-seekers traveling to the U.S. southern border to have their asylum claims heard at a U.S. consulate in Mexico.

Interviewers should also ask the asylum-seekers why they did not assert asylum in other countries, such as Mexico. If they fail to explain why, immigration officials should consider this a factor in their decisions.

Second, Congress must close the loopholes. That means rejecting the Flores settlement and instead allowing accompanied children to remain with their parents while they await adjudication of their asylum claims or prosecution for having violated immigration law.

Congress should also reform the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to allow unaccompanied children from countries that are noncontiguous with the U.S. to be quickly repatriated to their home countries.

Yes, other enforcement reforms are needed. But the above fixes would go a long way toward securing the border and deterring illegal immigration.

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Lunch!

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. At EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

It's shopworn joke: "The only subject that I liked in school was lunch." Let's not be too quick to dismiss lunch, though. It has proven to be more important than most of the classes I took. And now that I've efficiently disposed of 16 lbs of leftover turkey it's time to give thanks for the only element of daily life that always holds genuine promise: lunch.

Let's bracket the target here. For most of us, breakfast is something that has to fit into a thin crack in our schedules. As for dinner, it often has the air of the compulsory about it; you're going to be sleeping on the couch if you make a habit of skipping family dinners.

Sandwiched between these constraints, lunch can hold some real promise, at least to the extent that nobody is holding a loaded time clock to your head. I've been fortunate enough to evade that threat since high school.

Lunch is elastic and it scales well. Maybe it will be a two-minute lunch, maybe it will be a 90-minute meal with pals, but whichever route I'll take, it's because it makes the most sense for the circumstances.

I will note that a day with a 90-minute lunch is never a lost day, even if everything else has gone wrong.

The acme of efficiency would be to knock out all your work before lunch, so when you're leaving the office for lunch you're also leaving for the day. I've seen a few people pull this off, but, alas, only a few.

In theory, though, it should be common, at least in the broader office workforce. I suspect that, on average, fewer than six hours of work really get done over an eight-hour workday. If you could just front-load that six hours and get it done, well, problem solved. Life would be one long picnic.

The computerized office has been rolling for almost 40 years now, but in spite of all the "efficiency" everyone was worshiping, work is no less time-consuming now than it was back then. That's not a quirk of technology, it's a quirk of human nature. Human nature has a very weird way of evaluating time. Technology has merely made us more efficient at pursuing our inefficient proclivities.

With that in mind, I don't perceive that people have more time for lunch in 2018 than they did in 1980.

One constant overhang with the lunch thing is the attempt to wring some productivity out of it. The "business lunch," which flew the ensign of the "power lunch" (yuck) in the 1980s, is a longstanding component of professional life.

I know there are many good reasons for this approach, but I'll confess I'm a little cagey about agreeing when I hear the phrase, "Let's do lunch." That's because in corporate life I once realized that an entire week of lunches with buzzword-spouting bores had somehow soaked into my appointment book. Have you ever noticed that interesting people are always uniquely interesting, but bores tend to be identically boring? Once again, technology has showed its hand by solidifying this facet of human nature.

Anyway, also on the corporate front, I'll admit that I never had the heart to enforce tight lunch schedules onto workers. Everybody deserves some wiggle room. Lunch is a good place to offer it.

One great thing about Saipan is that I never had lunch with people I didn't actually want to have lunch with. Life is better that way.

I'm not diligent about managing my small expenses, and I'm not so great about managing my calories, either, and lunch is just beneath the threshold at which I'm willing to pay attention on either count.

Rolling back to the post-Thanksgiving context, I suspect the penchant for turkey might be an American thing, because many people I know, including my own wife, wonder how I can belly up to a daily stream of turkey sandwiches for lunch. I don't think turkey is a big sell in the West Pacific, but I can't claim to have really studied the subject.

I was going to tell a pal about these exciting developments in my recent turkey consumption, so I called and suggested that we have lunch.

He seemed a bit evasive, though. He wouldn't commit to anything. He must be busy.

Urban America's vagrancy outrage

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

It's appropriate that the U.N. special rapporteur devoted to adequate housing has visited encampments in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Mumbai -- and San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

The homeless situation in those cities and others around the country is positively Third World, a blight that shows the persistence of human folly and misery, despite what we take to be our steady progress to greater enlightenment and prosperity.

San Francisco is a crown jewel of the new economy, and a sink of vagrancy. One of the more compelling pieces of reportage that The New York Times has run recently was on the dirtiest block in San Francisco, the 300 block of Hyde Street, blighted by discarded heroin needles and other filth.

In the 21st century, in the richest country on the planet, you would think that we would have figured out how to live without having to step around human feces. The experience of San Francisco says that, against all expectations, we haven't -- or at least we forgot how.

In an article for the journal National Affairs, Stephen Eide of the Manhattan Institute recounted how we got here over the past 50 years.

Cities wiped out or drastically diminished their skid rows, once a last-ditch housing recourse for men who had hit bottom. As urban renewal and regulations to improve the quality of housing eliminated these down-on-their-luck areas, the people who once lived there decamped to public places.

We "deinstitutionalized" the mentally ill, too often a euphemism for dumping them onto the streets and into jails. About 20 to 30 percent of the homeless are mentally ill.

Meanwhile, the number of single-parent families drastically increased. Women only rarely lived on skid row, but poor families headed by single mothers are a large component of the homeless.

These large-scale trends have been met with a new, more permissive legal environment. The Supreme Court in 1972 made it more difficult for city police forces to hustle along vagrants, and subsequent free-speech jurisprudence has made outlawing panhandling tricky. Civil commitment of the mentally ill has become highly restricted. The American Civil Liberties Union is a great de facto friend of vagrancy.

Not that anything is easy in this area. The hard core of the homeless population is cut off from human relationships and finds the perverse freedom of the streets more appealing than the structure that would come with assistance. Many refuse help, either because they are too sick to make rational decisions or they don't want to deal with any rules.

But the beginning wisdom is to consider the status quo intolerable, and resist the advocates who want to normalize panhandling and camping, and the associated drug abuse, petty crime and disorder. Houston has had success with a tough-love policy of more services, coupled with a crackdown on encampments and other public nuisances.

One of the advantages of modern society is that people don't have to live in public, or in squalor. That it is widely accepted in some of our greatest cities is an outrage of our age. It is deeply harmful to our civic life, and does no favors for the men and women living in parks and highway underpasses.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Message of appreciation

My dear people of Saipan and the Northern Islands: *Un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase' yan ghillisow para todos*! I am immensely grateful for your confidence, time, effort, and unwavering support.

I will endeavor to reflect and live with the utmost honesty, integrity and compassion with and by you all. You have generously contributed your ideas, thoughts, and observations, and I'm willing to discuss what really matters to you. With your openness and involvement, I believe we can make our CNMI a better place for all of us!

I remain your senator that listens and speaks for what is the greater good of the CNMI. Your concerns, aspirations, ideas and feedback are valued and appreciated.

Thank you for entrusting me to think and speak to respond and act on what matters in our CNMI. We have a lot of heart that will get us through the hard work that needs to be done, to rebuild and heal, and bring a semblance of normalcy.

I thank my family, relatives, friends and loyal supporters, who generously gave their all, during this election journey, along with my campaign chairman Liling Reyes and George Camacho. Above all, I thank God. It is with Him that I continue to serve you, our people. Again, as your servant leader, I humbly thank you.

Justo S. Quitugua
20th Legislature, Capital Hill

BABIES

From Page 10

likely to have gotten anyway, and which is treatable.

The ethical (and practical) concerns raised by such experiments are complex and far reaching. For instance, if lifesaving or life-lengthening gene editing becomes more widely available, who will benefit from it? Will it be restricted to the wealthy people who can afford it?

And this: If people live considerably longer lives, how would that affect the size of the world population and how would longer-living older generations be supported?

Now, He said, society can begin discussing how far such research should be allowed to go. On the contrary, the time for that discussion was before he undertook his experimentation on humans, not after. And indeed, last year a panel with members from scientific organizations around the world recommended against the implantation of gene-edited human embryos until the various aspects were better understood. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration forbids gene editing for medical purposes if it would affect future generations.

Of course, it's hoped that one day, when our knowledge of gene editing and its consequences is deeper, we won't need such restrictions. At one time, in vitro fertilization was criticized as unethical tampering with human destiny. Now it's commonplace. Cures for seemingly incurable diseases could be next on the list, but when those cures have the potential to affect not just those who are treated, but their descendants in ways we can't foresee, it's important to ensure that scientific advances aren't getting too far ahead of our understanding of how to use them.

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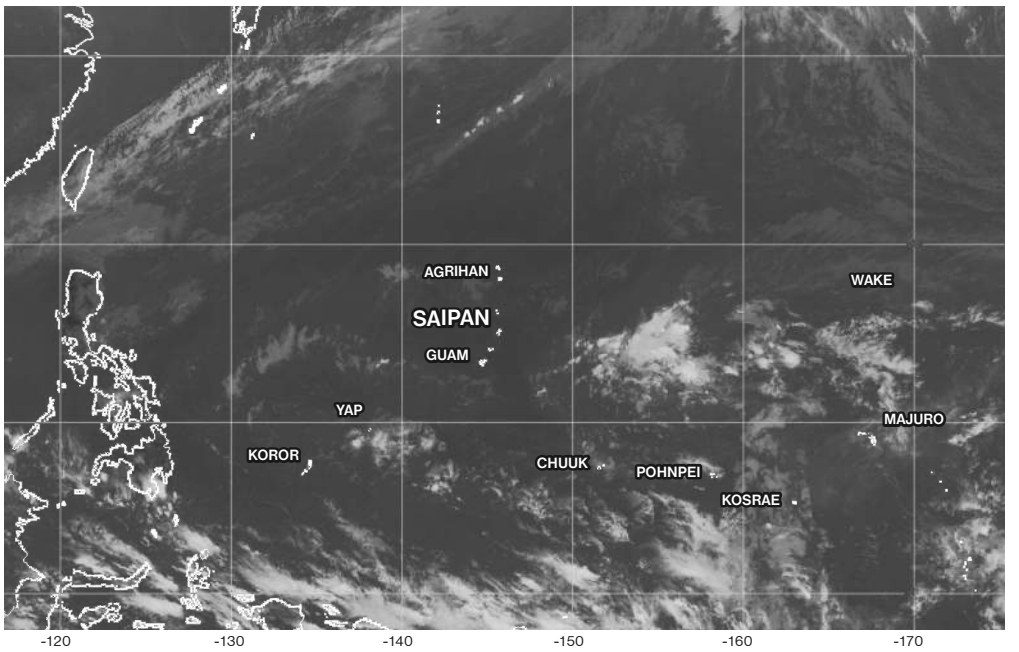
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼76°	▲89° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly benign pattern will continue across the region through Friday. An approaching weak disturbance will bring isolated thunderstorms to the Marianas Friday evening, with scattered showers expected on Saturday. As the system moves out of the area on Sunday, drier conditions will return to the islands, although the models indicate a relatively unsettled pattern through the middle of next week. Therefore, maintained mostly cloudy skies through the Wednesday for now. Otherwise, only isolated showers and gentle to moderate trade winds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 34°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	75° / 70°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 70°
London	Showers	54° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	88° / 57°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	45° / 38°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	63° / 43°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	52° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	57° / 46°
Rome	Cloudy	55° / 48°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	68° / 53°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	56° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 32°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:10 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.05
2:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
8:45 PM	LOW TIDE	0.96
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:41 AM	-
Saturday	12:45 AM	1:26 PM	-
Sunday	1:40 AM	2:09 PM	-
Monday	2:34 AM	2:52 PM	-
Tuesday	3:28 AM	3:34 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – *temporarily suspended*

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – *resume from Nov 28*

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – *resume from Nov 27*

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4 *resume from Nov 28*
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 *resume from Nov 22*
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – *temporarily suspended*

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 27*

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7 *resume from Nov 28*
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 *resume from Nov 22*
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 *resume from Nov 22*
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

CELEBRATING 38 YEARS IN THE CNMI

Hyatt's biggest impact: Making the Marianas known

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency, an international brand, first set foot on Saipan in 1980. Thirty-eight years later, the hotel has helped the Marianas become more known in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

Today, there are about a hundred hotels in the region—all of that built in just a span for 40 years.

According to Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan "has experienced many things in the CNMI for the past 38 years. We were there with the ups and downs. We are tough and still working to be better."

That is part of the over-arching goal—to make the Hyatt brand be the preferred brand in every destination.

Josephine Mesta, director of Human Resource at Hyatt, who boasts of 25 years of service at Hyatt Regency Saipan, said as much. "They wanted Hyatt to be the preferred brand in every destination. I know this because this was part of my orientation 25 years ago," she said.

"I think they were very progressive, even visionaries, because they saw the potential of the Marianas. Back then… Hyatt had this vision that they can take this hotel here, manage it, and take it to where it is today…so it's kind of like Hyatt put us in the map, in the globe, because when you take a look or search for Hyatt, Hyatt Saipan is there," she added.

BEA CABRERA
Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick NIshikawa and director for Human Resources Josephine Mesta.

Rooted in authenticity

Mesta believes that one of Hyatt's secrets for lasting this long is its "authenticity."

"We believe that we are sincere in what we do. Many people come to me and say that it looks like the typhoon didn't touch Hyatt compared to other hotels and I say to them this is because we have a team that performs its best at the worst time," she said. "We know how take care of people and I believe that is the key to our success. It's really our people, the management, [and our] customers—everyone is involved in making this business successful."

Typhoon Yutu responder

Many residents took refuge at the Hyatt Regency Saipan before and after the typhoon.

"We learned a lot from [Typhoon] Soudelor as, after the typhoon, people came to the hotel looking for power outlets to charge their phones, cook their food and we closed our eyes and let them do it. After Yutu, we were prepared for our guests and the community," Nishikawa said.

"We have a generator and our own water system. The day after the typhoon, we were on top of things. …Our focus was to support the community and help recover as we housed many of the international responders. …We put up a charging station [and] we bought washing machines right after the typhoon because we know many people wanted to wash clothes," he added.

While employees were taking care of Hyatt's guests, the management also made sure that the employees were comfortable as well, Mesta said.

"We provided shelter for our staff and their families who were affected by the typhoon. We have them stay in-house and opened up other rooms so their families can come and shower," she added.

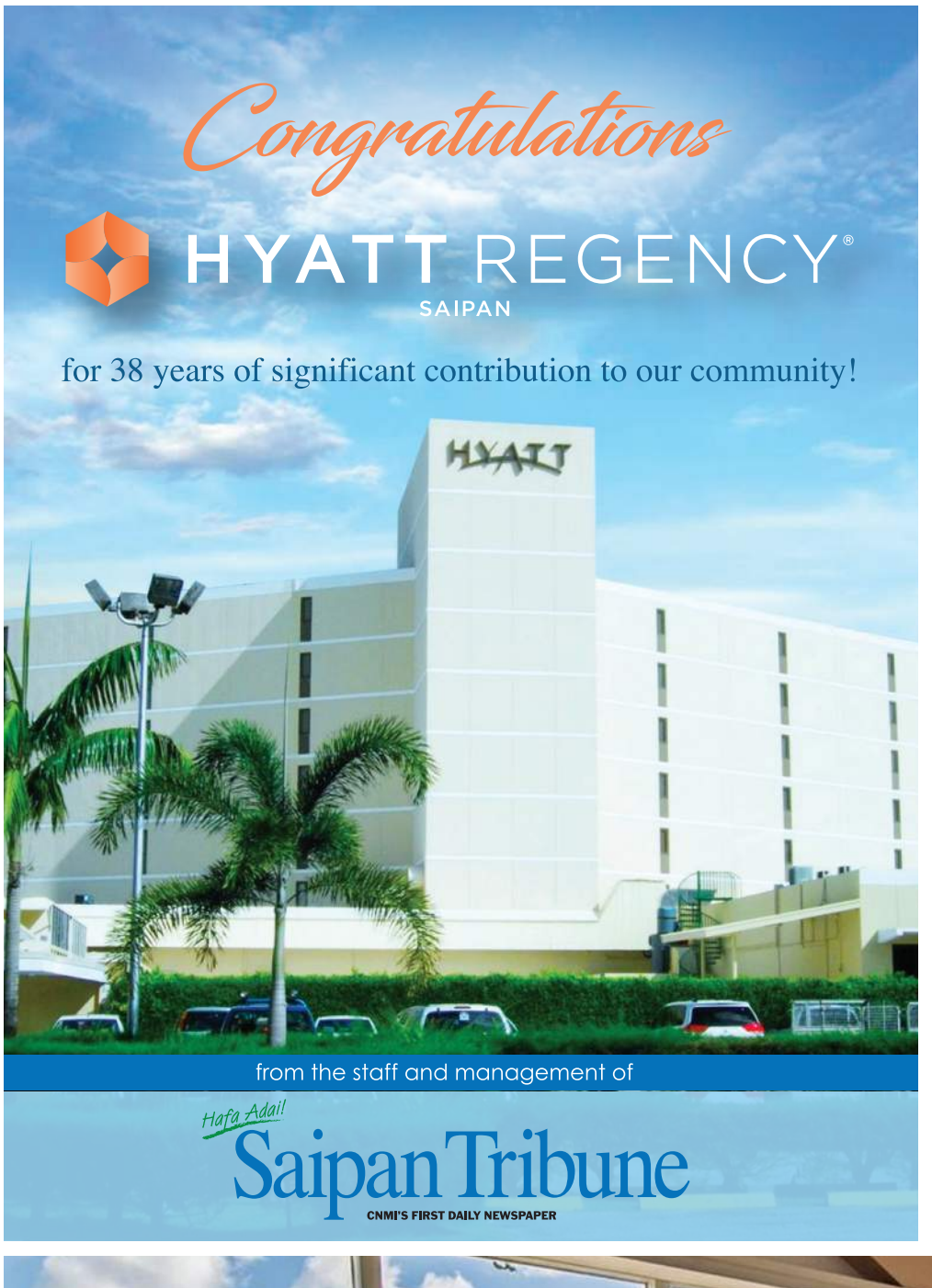
Employment

Mesta highlighted the high number of U.S. citizen employees at Hyatt. "We have 253 employees composed of 90-some percent U.S. citizens.

"We currently have about 30 percent of employees who have been with us for the past 15-20 years. …We have one or two key people that have been here since the beginning of Hyatt 38 years ago and they are now in their 80s and still working because they don't want to quit," she added.

Nishikawa attributes their employees' loyalty to the way they train, guide and shape the employees. He said Hyatt Saipan is a good training

See HYATT'S on Next Page



HYATT'S

From Page 13

ground, with some employees who have moved to the mainland whose first choice of work is at the Hyatt. And it's not just the rank and file. "We are a training ground for a lot of Hyatt general managers. … That's our contribution to Hyatt International. Everybody is tasked to prepare and groom future Hyatt executives and they come here."

Boosting CNMI's tourism industry

Hyatt hotels operates like a "tourism agent" for one another, according to Nishikawa.

With 700 hotels all over the world, each hotel is an agent, he said. Each hotel has its own customers and if these customers want to travel to the Pacific, they usually recommend the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Everything at Hyatt is connected like a chain. …For the CNMI, where tourism is the only industry on the island, those connections are very important," said Nishikawa.

"People all over the world trust the Hyatt brand…I think the name of the hotel is very important to a traveler; they feel safe because they are used to a certain standard and they expect that standard every time and we give it to them," he added

Mesta understands how a traveler's mind works. "I don't think someone in Kentucky who wants to visit an island somewhere far will look for an unknown hotel brand. …For people who stay at the Hyatt, they use Hyatt to dictate their destination in a specific region," she said.

"That's a captured market right away and that is one of our biggest contribution in this community," she added.

Its future

With a land lease bill still pending at the CNMI Senate, Hyatt Regency Saipan is operating on the last three years left on its contract. "We want to be around for another 38 years and that's basically our challenge right now," Mesta said.

"We have been a big part of this community. …We are involved in…schools, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce boards, helping the government as advisers, we help raise funds and donations and that makes us engaged… we raise the bar so others will follow," she added.

Nishikawa said the owners of Hyatt Regency Saipan wants to continue doing business on island. "They said that they are eager to make the necessary renovations in the hotel, to be in line with the make and design of other Hyatt hotels in the world but everything is on a standstill because, with only three years left on our lease, we are made to wait."

"Once we get the lease extension, we want to do renovations. …This hotel is the same as 38 years ago…We definitely want to renovate rooms to meet the Hyatt standard."

Hyatt's priority

After a monthlong hiatus, tourists have started to return to Saipan and Hyatt is ready for them.

"We are ready, with open the doors and for them to enjoy the islands…If there's anything we can do for the community, that is to keep the Marianas in the face of the world," Mesta said.

"So we ask community to keep that alive, to safekeep, nourish and promote the Marianas so the international world will keep us in their map of destinations…We have to work together to keep the Marianas in somebody's vocabulary," she added.

Nishikawa said it is important to keep the Hyatt name on this island. "Otherwise everybody leaves—tourists, investors, business and eventually the economy… Investors come to the island and stay at the Hyatt. They talk to me, ask about the island and I always say Saipan is a very nice place for their business. It is the ideal island for everyone."

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HANMI celebrates with Hyatt

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Cavanagh

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands headed by its president, Gloria Cavanagh, is one with the community in greeting Hyatt Regency Saipan on the 38th anniversary in the CNMI.

"*Biba* Hyatt Regency Saipan! Thank you for all you do for the people of the CNMI. All HANMI events are supported by Hyatt as they have always been a key player in our association. …Hyatt Regency Saipan has always been a huge contributor to the community. Unfortunately, sometimes, they are a quiet contributor," she said.

"I say this because, in the past, they have never made press releases regarding their generosity. It has just been for the last five years where this has become the norm, hence, much of the community do not realize that they have always been there for the people," she added.

In explaining the importance of having the Hyatt in the CNMI, Cavanagh pointed out that Hyatt Regency is the only international flagship brand on the islands.

"Tourist will seek out the Hyatt brand when traveling because of the international points systems that the Hyatt Regency Saipan is part of. It is an additional incentive when tourists are deciding on a travel destination," she said.

Cavanagh believes, though, that one of Hyatt's best contribution has been the training of residents.

"Its management has been heavily involved with Northern Marianas Training Institute since the start. I believe that they have the highest percentage of U.S. [citizen-]workers in the hotel industry and they have provided careers and paths to success for many of our local people," she added.

As for Hyatt's pending lease agreement with the government, Cavanagh said the issue will have a great impact not only on the CNMI's hotel and tourism industry but also on the community. "We must calculate the loyalty, longevity, and trust that Hyatt has shown and proven into the calculation of 'best use.'

"After [Super] Typhoon Yutu and its devastating effect, it should be more obvious that these values are necessary for the survival and growth of our economy. I wish that our community will realize that it is essential to continue our relationship with Hyatt."

'Hyatt has always been there when MVA seeks its support'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan has always been a dependable source of support, according to Marianas Visitors Authority executive director Chris Concepcion.

"Hyatt Regency has always been there when the MVA seeks the support of our hotel partners. These events vary—event hosting, housing of celebrities and other VIP guests—for getting the Saipan Marathon finally certified by Association of International Marathons and Distant Races and International Association of Athletics Federations which put us on the global marathon circuit and more," Concepcion said.

Concepcion

"Hyatt Regency adds that special touch because they have international standards and expectations that they must abide by and live up to. That's the best thing about having a global brand like the Hyatt Regency in the CNMI; they have standards to meet that other hotels do not and that makes them special," he added.

He agrees that Hyatt Regency Saipan's history of 38 years in the CNMI has allowed it to contribute immensely to the tourism industry in the CNMI.

"Throughout their nearly 40 years of doing business here, they have brought a globally recognized brand to the CNMI, which elevates our profile in the global tourism industry. It is the sole global brand in the CNMI to this day and that alone is tremendously valuable.

"They've partnered with the MVA on nearly all our marketing projects locally and international markets. They have sponsored rooms and meals for many of our special guests. They have donated funding to many organizations that help sustain the tourism industry and the list goes on," he added.

One of the MVA's challenges is to get the Japanese market back to the CNMI and having a Japanese-owned property operating a premium brand hotel in the CNMI contributes to MVA efforts. "I will say that the Hyatt Regency Saipan management team has been a key partner in luring air service from Japan to the CNMI and this is enormously beneficial for the tourism industry," said Concepcion.

"Hyatt Regency Saipan also participates in nearly all overseas travel trade shows and seminars hosted by the MVA and having them there is appreciated. …They've contributed greatly to the community through their charitable donations, sponsorship of countless community events, sporting events, their support of all their employees which are almost all local hires, and much more. They occupy a very prestigious role as the sole global hotel chain in the CNMI and that in and of itself is a great community contribution," he added.

Concepcion said that MVA is looking forward to Hyatt serving tourists and the people of the CNMI for another 38 years. "On behalf of the MVA board, management team and staff, we congratulate Hyatt Regency Saipan on their 38th anniversary. Having a Japanese-owned property under a global brand doing business in the CNMI is highly desirable.

"We thank Mr. Nishikawa and his entire team for all their contributions to the CNMI. We look forward to another 38 years and more of doing business with the Hyatt group," he added.

‘FEMA to stay until islands recover’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency assures that the agency would be the CNMI’s partner in its recovery efforts from two destructive typhoons.

FEMA public information officer Paul Corah assured Wednesday that the agency’s personnel will be here until they see the islands are back on their feet.

“FEMA is not going anywhere until the recovery is been taken care off. We’re here as long as the Commonwealth likes us to be here,” said Corah. “We understand that recovery takes a long time, so it is a long haul…for us of trying to get the islands back in shape. And we’re going to do whatever we can to get it there and it will just take a long time. Yes, FEMA will be here for the long haul. We will stay until the islands recover.”

He added that the recovery of a community is different in every type of disaster. “Every disaster is different. It’s kind of goes in different phases. We come in and look at what kind of damage is there and how can we help the local communities better survive… taking care of the survivors by providing shelter, food, and water, and get electricity and water supply back.”

“And that’s the kind of what we’re doing right now, which is going great. We’re getting people their tents. Assisting them in shelters with other partners. We’re also looking at long-term shelters, [American] Red Cross is here to also help these people. Power companies are here to restore utilities—electricity and water getting turned back on, which is great.”

For more information or if you have already applied for disaster assistance but have waited more than 30 days, call FEMA at 800-621-3362 so they could send an inspector to assess your home.

FEMA’s response after Super Typhoon Yutu was quick since there were already FEMA personnel on Saipan for more than a month after Typhoon Mangkhut hit Rota last September. Additional federal assistance and personnel came, following the emergency and disaster declarations approved by the White House before and after Yutu.

Corah said that FEMA and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management have been coordinating all information and correspondence that would disseminated to the public.

“So survivors know what to do and where to go. It updates everybody on what the latest stuff is, because it changes,” said Corah.

Corah said the CNMI government, federal agencies, and other private non-profit organizations are in the middle of disaster recovery—especially on the islands of Saipan and Tinian. “We have a long way to go. FEMA is not going anywhere until the recovery is been taken care off. We’re here as long as the Commonwealth likes us to be here.”

Cleanup and repairs

Local officials are also encouraging people to begin or continue with their cleanup and repairs in their homes. Residents can start cleaning up to make their homes safe before FEMA inspectors come in and assess the damage.

They are asking people to clean up all typhoon-related debris as soon as possible and advising them to either take photos or videos—inside and outside—of their damaged homes and personal property.

Take photos of the model and serial number of appliances and electronics that were damaged during the typhoon. All household and hazardous wastes, white goods, and electronics must be taken to designated drop-off locations.

All perishable food and other items that pose a health risk must be immediately thrown away. It is also advised that all contaminated food items should be discarded unless they are in undamaged cans or commercially sealed jars.

“Sanitize containers before opening it. Sanitize pots, pans, utensils, dishes, glassware, and other items you intend to keep. Before starting any structural work, get a building permit from your local building authorities,” said the CNMI Joint Information Center in a statement.

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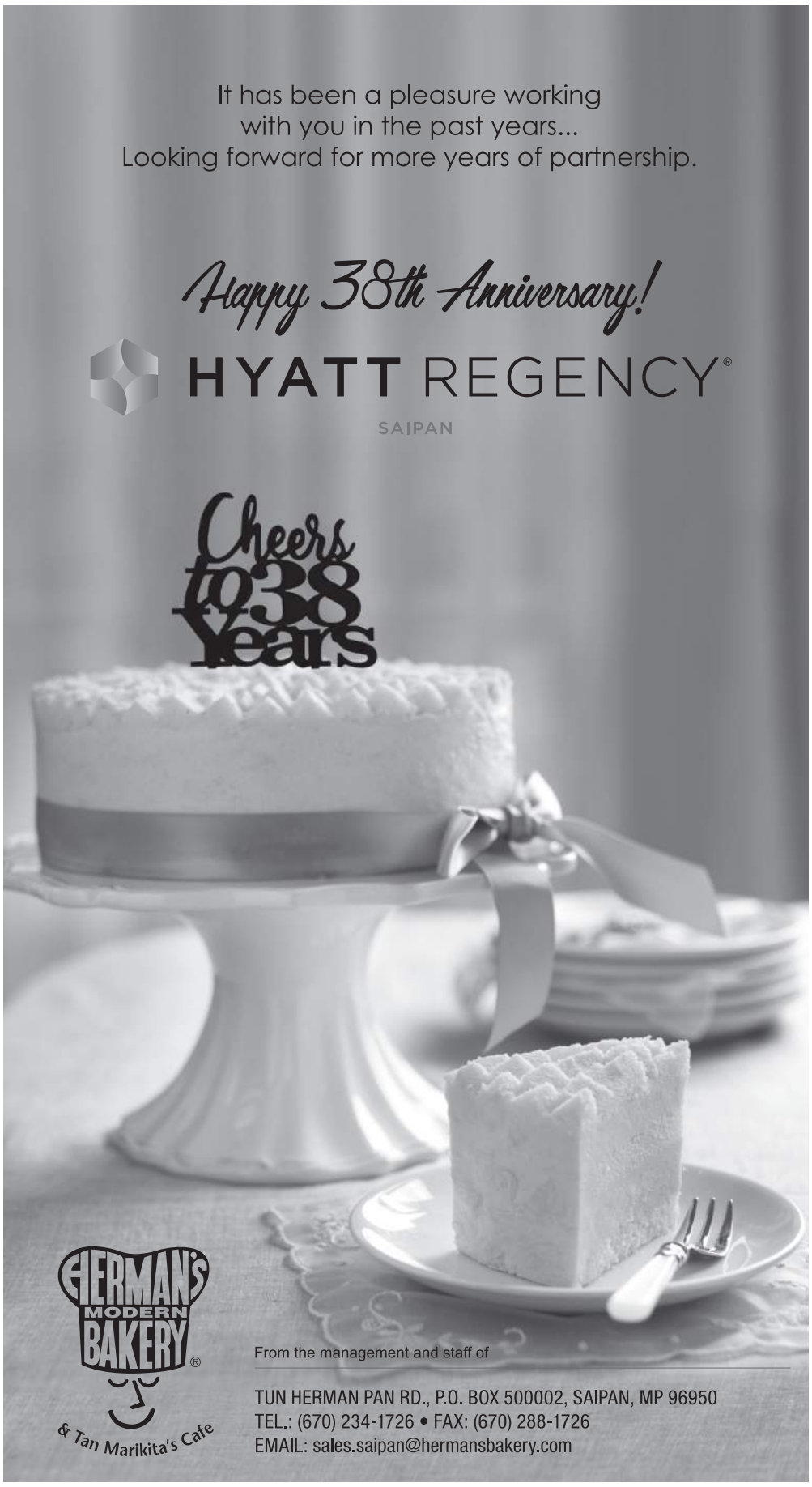
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Hocog keynotes tourism conference in China

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog was the featured speaker at the 3rd Annual Conference on International Tourism Communication at the Boao Convention Center on the island of Hainan, China.

Speaking to representatives of over 30 countries and over 1,000 tourism industry stakeholders, Hocog spoke about the positive impact that strategic social media and professional marketing are having on the CNMI's rapidly developing tourism industry.

He also touched on the CNMI's recovery efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu and highlighted the importance of what is termed as "destination reputation management," so that all source markets are kept up to date.

Hocog appealed to Chinese tourism industry experts to keep supporting and promoting the Northern Marianas as a unique island resort destination. The goal is to offer tourists a heightened personal traveling experience of the CNMI's indigenous culture, heritage, traditional culinary delicacies, music and dance performances, arts and handicrafts, and history.

At the end of the forum, Hocog was interviewed by several Chinese media outlets.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog is interviewed at the 3rd Annual Conference on International Tourism Communication at the Boao Convention Center on the island of Hainan, China. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The promotional video of "My Marianas" that was produced by the MVA China team was also awarded the "China-Annual Culture & Tourism Integrated Marketing Award." This video is one of many tools that has propelled the CNMI to the top 5 island resort destinations for Chinese outbound travelers.

Also gracing the conference were Federated States of Micronesia ambassador to China Carlson Apis, social media experts Deirdre Campbell for USA and Canada, Damian Cook from Australia, Raymond Kim from South Korea, and Kazuhiko Hayami from Japan. ***(PR)***

E-Land works with Red Cross

Despite sustaining heavy damage itself, a South Korean-based company with several hotels on Saipan has been helping with relief and disaster response in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018.

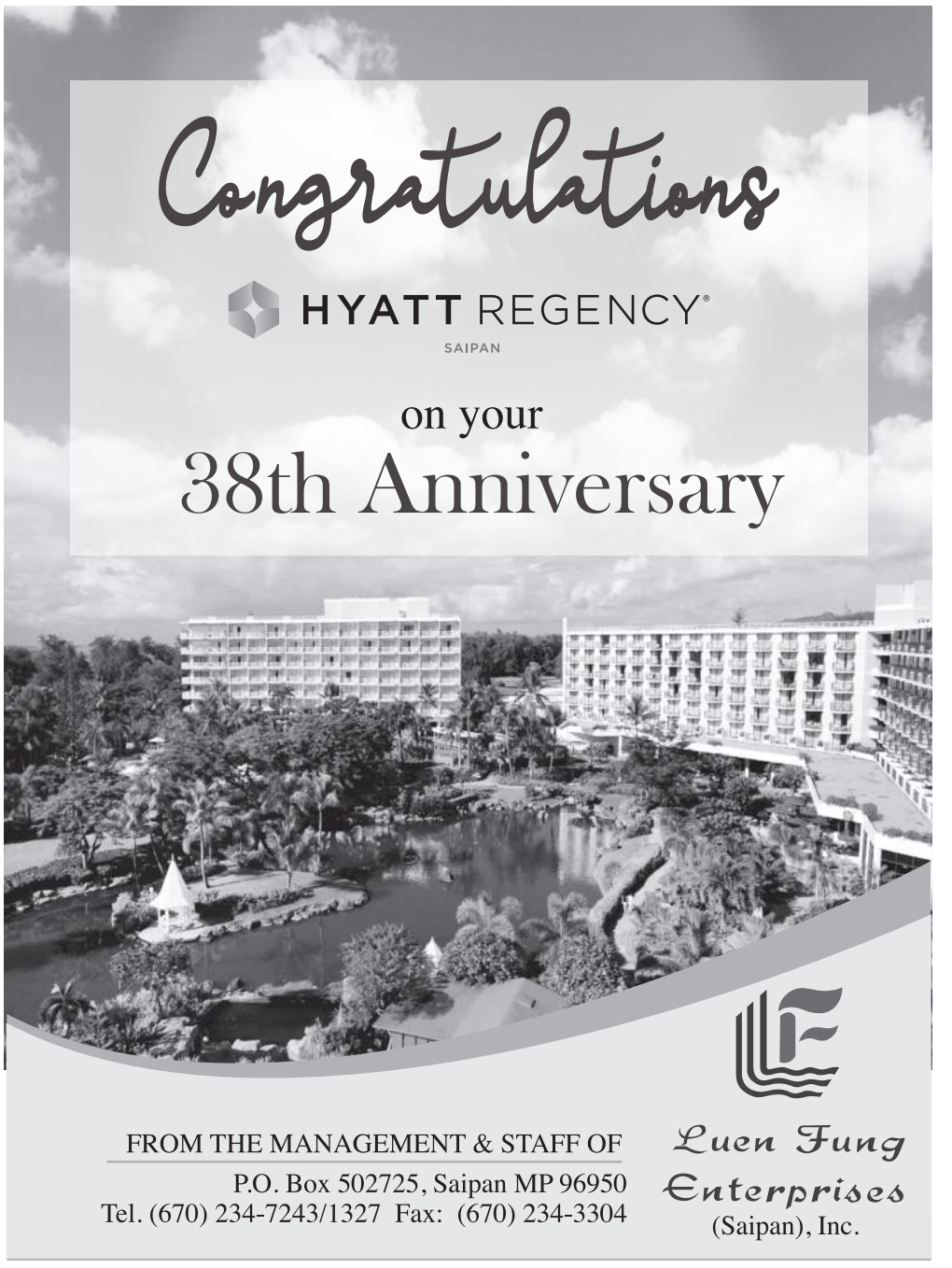
E-Land Group, a conglomerate that does business in retail malls, restaurants, theme parks, hotels, and construction, has been working with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter by volunteering to assist in mobile distributions of emergency supplies to villages with Red Cross, youth volunteers, and military personnel.

"We will continue volunteering for another week or so, as per Red Cross' relief activities," said E-Land Corporate Social Responsibility facilitator Lindsay Ahn.

Staff from Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort volunteered to assist the Red Cross, Ahn added, despite the heavy damage to PIC and COP.

PIC, according to general manager Gloria Cavanagh, sustained heavy damage in both the hotel and their newly renovated waterpark. COP's operations manager Calvin Park told *Saipan Tribune* that the hotel also suffered extensive damage, prompting them to transfer their guests to Kensington Hotel.

"All of us gladly joined to volunteer…to be a part of the help to the community, which is going through distressing time after Typhoon Yutu," Ahn told *Saipan Tribune*. "Our staff has been spending meaningful time while closely meeting residents in needs." ***(Erwin Encinares)***



Business

Suddenly, luxury stores miss free-spending Chinese tourists

NEW YORK (AP)—There was something missing at the luxury jeweler Tiffany & Co. in recent months: Chinese tourists.

For the second time in as many months, a big seller of high-end goods noticed that a particularly crucial demographic of its shopping base had made itself sparse, damaging sales and stoking fears of worse to come.

On Wednesday, shares of Tiffany & Co. plunged 12 percent after reporting weaker-than-expected sales in its third quarter. CEO Alessandro Bogliolo said that Chinese tourists have failed to show up, and open wallets up, with the same vigor that they had in the past.

Last month, the owner of Louis Vuitton noted the same phenomenon of dwindling Chinese tourists. Shares in that company were hit hard as well.

Tiffany is considered a bellwether for luxury goods, which is why shares of Ralph Lauren and Movado also fell on Wednesday, even as the broader stock market climbed sharply.

Tiffany's third-quarter revenue rose 4 percent to just above $1 billion, yet industry analysts were anticipating a bigger boost. Part of the reason for the surprise was fewer tourists, particularly Chinese tourists, at stores in places like New York and Hong Kong.

"We don't see a slowdown of demand by the Chinese. What we see is that Chinese tourists are traveling less," said Bogliolo in a phone interview Wednesday.

In fact, Bogliolo said that Tiffany's business in mainland China remains strong, achieving double digit sales growth throughout the year. In response to the shift, Tiffany's is increasing its inventory at its stores in Mainland China so it's not missing out on any sales.

Bogliolo speculated that the deteriorating value of China's currency is to blame for the drop in Chinese tourists.

The yuan, also known as the renminbi, or "people's money," sank to a 10-year low against the dollar at the end of October. It strengthened slightly this month, leading many to believe that Beijing has stepped in to stop its slide.

But others see broader issues at play, including a simmering trade war and the potential for a slowing global economy that is squeezing even the wealthy in China.

"There are major strains in our political relationship with the Chinese government," said Robert Burke, a luxury consultant in New York. "It doesn't put them in the mood to come to the U.S. to spend their hard earned dollars. They do have the option to buy in mainland China."

While the number of people visiting the U.S. from China grew 4 percent in 2017, according to the U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office, that was down sharply from the 16 percent jump in 2016.

It's not a healthy trend for sellers of high-end goods.

Burke estimates that as much 30 percent of luxury goods sales globally are made to tourists from China. Dan Jasper, a spokesman at Mall of America's, the nation's largest shopping mall, noted that Chinese tourists tend to be more likely to purchase higher end items including luxury cosmetics, jewelry, clothing and electronics. He said that the number of Chinese tourists to the center continues to grow at a "modest rate."

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success (SPF PFS) grant for eligible organizations in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. **Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success (SPF PFS): FY2019 $425,000**
(Each applicant, with the exception of a previous SPF PFS sub grant recipient, is able to apply for a sub grant award of up to $40,000. A previous SPF PFS sub grant recipient is able to apply for a sub grant award of up to $100,000.)

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

1. **Prevent or reduce consequences of underage drinking and adult problem drinking and drinking and driving with emphasis in persons ages 12-20**
2. **Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse with emphasis on persons ages 12-25**
3. **Collaborate with other behavioral health prevention areas utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework**
4. **Evaluate all activities**

The SPF PFS provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Community Guidance Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit:

1) **Underage Drinking and/or**
2) **Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse**

This grant award requires a Strategic Prevention Framework to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:
1) Assessment: Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
2) Capacity: Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
3) Planning: Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
4) Implement: Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
5) Evaluate: Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

In order to be eligible to apply, an applicant must be a non-profit organization or government agency with at least twenty-five active youth participants, have not been defunded as a SPF SIG and/or SPF PFS sub grant recipient, AND required to implement an evidence-based curriculum.

The Project Director will make the final recommendation in consultation and collaboration with the CGC Director on applications based off of proficiency areas aimed at sustaining substance abuse prevention outcomes. The grant application guidelines detail the information required.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit Office at the CHCC: Community Guidance Center, conveniently located on the 2nd Floor of TSL Plaza (Beach Road, Garapan) or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: CGC Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit office on Saipan and the CGC personnel on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on December 3, 2018.

For more information, please contact Ms. Kimberly S. Tudela at 323-6560 or kmstudela@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com; or Ms. Benedicta San Nicolas, Behavioral Health Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or benedicta.sannicolas@gmail.com.

/s/Esther L. Muna
CEO, CHCC

/s/Nadine H. Sablan
CGC Director

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Nation

Border agents face split-second decisions on use of force

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—U.S. Border Patrol agents near Tijuana, Mexico, faced a choice as they looked out over the chaos at a crowd of migrants that included rock-throwing men as well as barefoot children: Do they respond with force — and, if so, what kind?

The circumstances at the San Ysidro border crossing Sunday were exceptional, but the question facing the agents was not. It's a split-second choice more often made in the remote desert, far from cameras, where agents are likely working alone and encountering groups of people crossing illegally.

The agents' response — firing tear gas into the crowd — triggered widespread outrage and rekindled complaints that the Border Patrol, bolstered by President Donald Trump's tough talk, is too quick to use force, particularly when responding to people throwing rocks.

But use of force by Customs and Border Protection officers and agents is declining from a high during the 2013 budget year, government statistics show. There are high-profile exceptions, like the shooting death by agents of a 19-year-old Guatemalan woman who crossed the border near Laredo in May.

Still, experts say policies have improved following a major audit five years ago.

"There has been progress made — especially in getting officers better training and better equipment," said Josiah Heyman, a professor with University of Texas at El Paso and director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies. "When I first started studying this, most agents had a gun and a baton. They didn't have the choice to use anything else."

Firearms were used 45 times in budget year 2013 compared with 17 in 2017, according to data from Customs and Border Protection. For the first 11 months of the 2018 budget year, firearms were used 14 times. The data includes Border Patrol agents that patrol between the ports of entry, and officers who police border crossings.

Over those 11 months, there were 743 cases of agents and officers using less-lethal force, like batons, stun guns, tear gas and pepper spray. These included 29 cases in which tear gas was used and 43 incidents of pepper spray.

Though the final numbers are unavailable, those figures represent a drop from 2013, during the Obama administration, when there were 1,168 incidents of less-lethal force, including 27 instances of tear gas and 151 of pepper spray, according to the data. Less-lethal force has increased over the past two years but is still lower than 2013.

Complaints about excessive force prompted Customs and Border Protection to commission an investigation by the Police Executive Research Forum, a policing research and policy group. The 2013 audit highlighted problems that included foot-patrol agents without access to less-lethal options. It recommended law enforcement not be allowed to use deadly force when people throw rocks — a suggestion that was rejected.

Following those reviews, Customs and Border Protection revised policies and made major changes to training. Agents now undergo scenario-based drills at the academy and learn how to de-escalate tense situations. They get 64 hours of on-the-job training on use of force.

Some sectors, like El Paso, have a virtual reality simulator. The octagonal giant screens mounted on a platform mimic a desert encounter where agents must decide whether to fire their weapons. The scenario is designed to cause stress, and agents are forced to think quickly or face being shot, run over or hit with rocks. After the simulation, they discuss reactions with training officers and work on how to better respond in the future.

"The desert is a very difficult, dangerous unstructured environment," said Aaron Hull, Border Patrol chief for the El Paso Sector. "We're trying to keep our agents safe. We're trying to protect the safety of our communities, and all the people involved."

Chuck Wexler, head of the police research forum, credited the agency with taking the recommendations seriously. "Also when they do have an incident, they have a better review process," he said.

Trump defended the use of tear gas on children — claiming it was "very safe," a "very minor form" of irritant. But Customs and Border Protection officials still plan to conduct a review to determine whether it was justified and what — if anything — could be done better, according to Commissioner Kevin McAleenan.

Agents are authorized to use deadly force when there is reasonable belief that there is an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person.

They have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force: It must be both "objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties" — and used when other "empty hand" techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-006

KANAT TABLA ROAD, FLOOD CONTROL & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Kanat Tabla Road, Flood Control & Drainage Improvements**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **November 23, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 11, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 19, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time December 27, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, December 27, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 27, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 8, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, January 11, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on December 27, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Three Hundred (300) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2018**. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than December 14, 2018. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than **December 21, 2018**, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 15, 2019. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at Tel 235-7273.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

US airstrike reportedly kills dozens of Afghan civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents staged a coordinated attack targeting a security firm in the Afghan capital on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 19 others, as the U.S. said an airstrike hours earlier in Helmand province that reportedly killed civilians was conducted by American aircraft. Wednesday's attack in eastern Kabul took place when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives and other insurgents started a gun battle with security forces in the area, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said. The assault came hours after provincial officials said at least 30 civilians were killed along with 16 Taliban fighters during the overnight battle between Afghan government forces and insurgents in southern Helmand province. A local official, Attahullah Afghan, said most of the civilian casualties—which included men, women and children—came when an airstrike struck a house in the central Helmand River valley, a Taliban heartland. U.S. officials said it happened in Helmand's Garmsir district.

SKorea orders 2nd Japan firm to compensate forced laborers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's top court on Thursday ordered a Japanese company to compensate 10 Koreans for forced labor during Tokyo's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, in the second such ruling in a month that again drew strong protests from Japan. The latest verdict on Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was widely expected after the Supreme Court ruled in late October that another Japanese company must compensate four Korean men for similar colonial -era forced labor. The Oct. 30 ruling, which followed more than five years of deliberation at the court, was the first of its kind. The back-to-back rulings in South Korea are threatening to undermine relations with Japan, which has argued the issue of forced laborers was settled when Tokyo and Seoul signed a treaty in 1965 that restored diplomatic ties. The rulings are expected to affect similar lawsuits pending in South Korean courts. In two separate verdicts involving 10 forced laborers or their bereaved family members, the Supreme Court said Thursday that Mitsubishi must provide 80 million to 150 million won ($71,190-133,510) in compensation to each of the plaintiffs.

UN: Climate change, depleted resources leave world hungry

BANGKOK (AP)—Feeding a hungry planet is growing increasingly difficult as climate change and depletion of land and other resources undermine food systems, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization said Wednesday as it renewed appeals for better policies and technologies to reach "zero hunger." Population growth requires supplies of more nutritious food at affordable prices, but increasing farm output is hard given the "fragility of the natural resource base" since humans have outstripped Earth's carrying capacity in terms of land, water and climate change, the report said. About 820 million people are malnourished. The FAO and International Food Policy Research Institute released the report at the outset of a global conference aimed at speeding up efforts to achieve zero hunger around the world.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2375 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB19-GOV-007

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST & TARPING SYSTEM for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist and Tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on December 4, 2018 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Thursday, December 6, 2018, 10:00 am ChST** at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before **Thursday, December 14, 2018** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked ***ITB19-GOV-007 Supply and Installation of Roll-off Truck with Cable Hoist & tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station.*** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2019.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2019** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 3, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than January 14, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at ***10:30 a.m. ChST January 15, 2019.*** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at ***10:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2019.***

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 9:30AM, has been rescheduled for ***Monday, December 03, 2018, 2:30PM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of September 06, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Project: CMS KANNAT TABLA QUARRY – The Construction and Materials Supply, Inc. (CMS) is currently engaging in quarrying activities of an old and existing quarry site located on two leased public land properties in Kannat Tabla, specifically identified as Lot Nos. 035 H 01 and 035 H 02. Total area for the two lots is approximately 60,481 square meters, more or less.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-95-X-48, Amendment 2018-1
1) Discussions Regarding Kannat Tabla Residents' Concerns
2) Agencies' Updated Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Amendment Status Determination

B. Project: CMS SOLTEN QUARRY – The Construction and Material Supply, LLC (CMS) is requesting to extend its existing quarry operation in San Vicente, Saipan. This project is permitted under CRM Major Siting Permit No. SMS-97-X-59 and in 2016, CMS amended its permit to expand its rock quarry operation on approximately 20,800 square meters of private land identified as Lot No. 062 H 03. The proposed operation is projected to yield about one million cubic yards of limestone materials over a period of 10 years.

CMS issued a letter dated September 7, 2018 requesting to renew Permit No. SMS-97-X-59, Amendment 2006 to continue its quarry operations for a period of ten years or more with an option to renew for an additional term depending on the extraction rate driven by the demand for quarry products in the CNMI. Furthermore, CMS will not be changing its use and project yield of one million cubic yards of extracted materials but would like to include a temporary use for stockpiling of aggregates being extracted from nearby CMS quarry sites.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-97-X-59, Amendment 2019-1
1) Discussion, Comments, and/or Questions
2) Agencies' Updated Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Final Determination*

C. Project: IMPERIAL PACIFIC RESORT CONDITIONAL COMPLETION EXTENSION – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC is requesting to extend the completion date of the amended completion date of August 31, 2018 to February 28, 2021 as approved by the Casino License Agreement Amendment No. 6.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2015-X-029, Amendment 2019-1
1) Discussion, Comments, and/or Questions
2) Agencies' Updated Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Amendment Status Determination, *Final Determination*

III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1

Restoration of Electric Power Distribution System on Saipan Following Super Typhoon Yutu

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to design, restore and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, materials procurement and mobilization, installation, testing, commissioning and handover) of its power distribution system on Saipan as more fully described in the Statement of Work.

The solicitation seeks proposals from legally recognized business entities authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or which will be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth before execution of the agreement) to restore and rebuild its electric power distribution grid on Saipan.

The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided emailed to the interested parties upon request, or may be downloaded fromwww.cucgov.org/procurement/available-bids-and-rfp/. Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A site survey of the affected areas by Prospective Proposers is highly recommended. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions and do their own preliminary assessments prior to submitting the proposal. A site survey of affected areas will be provided upon request to CUC, Power T&D Division. Please email Power Division Manager, Lee Lieto via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org for scheduling.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1 – RESTORATION OF ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON SAIPAN FOLLOWING SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. In particular, Contractors will be required to execute a contract which contains required provisions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and which are set forth in Exhibit D to the Contract which is included the RFP package.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Proposers are advised that this project is being procured as an emergency procurement under the authority of the Hon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursuant to 1 CMC §20144 (c) and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and that ordinary procurement regulations do not apply. Time is of the essence in order to restore power to the people of Saipan. As such, no protests will be entertained.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

World

Putin derides Ukraine's martial law as political trick

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's president donned combat fatigues to implement martial law in much of the country on Wednesday, a move Russia denounced as a cynical political trick as both sides ratcheted up tensions after a weekend standoff in the Black Sea.

Each side blamed the other for the bellicose turn of events, with Ukraine saying Russia is preparing for a full-scale invasion and Moscow calling it a political stunt by an unpopular president facing tough elections.

In Sunday's confrontation, three Ukrainian naval vessels were heading from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov when they were blocked by the Russian coast guard near the Kerch Strait between Russia's mainland and the Crimean Peninsula it annexed from Ukraine. After many tense hours of maneuvering, the Russians opened fire and seized the Ukrainian vessels and crew.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko responded by ordering martial law in much of the country, a move that went into effect with parliamentary approval.

Poroshenko toured a military training center Wednesday in the Chernihiv region bordering Russia, one of the areas where martial law was imposed. Speaking to reporters as smoke billowed from a nearby shooting range, the camouflage-clad president pledged "not to allow the enemy to attack Ukraine" and announced a hike in salaries for servicemen.

Poroshenko initially sought to impose martial law for two months, a move that would have meant presidential elections scheduled for March would have to be scrapped due to election rules. Facing criticism in parliament, he halved the martial law time frame to a month, which would allow the election to go ahead as planned.

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin bluntly accused his Ukrainian counterpart of provoking the naval incident in order to shore up his sagging popularity and sideline competitors ahead of the March election.

UN chief: G-20 leaders need bolder action at critical time

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has a message for leaders of the 20 major economic powers ahead of this week's summit: Take stronger leadership and bolder action to tackle critical problems from climate change to inequality at a time the world is facing "a crisis of confidence."

Before flying to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the Group of 20 meeting, the U.N. chief told reporters Wednesday it is imperative that countries work together to create a fairer world.

"Those left behind by globalization are losing trust in governments and institutions," he warned.

He said inequality is "pervasive and increasing," trade disputes are escalating, and geopolitical tensions "are adding further pressure to the global economy."

In addition, Guterres said, "We are headed for a world of cataclysm and uncertainty due to climate disruption."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently said time is running out if the world wants to achieve the most ambitious target in the 2015 landmark Paris climate agreement—keeping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The planet has already warmed about 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times and is on course for another 2 to 3 degrees of warming by the end of the century unless drastic action is taken, its report said.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

(as amended)
November 9, 2018

PAYMENT RELIEF TO CDA TENANTS

On Tuesday, October 30, 2018, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Board of Directors approved to grant payment relief to all the CDA Tenants; Saipan, Rota & Tinian, who are on the Lease-to-Own with Option to Purchase arrangement and also those who are leasing units at the CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan. Payment relief is for three (3) months for Saipan & Tinian beginning November 2018 up to January 2019. For Rota, one (1) month additional payment relief is granted. The previous relief for Rota due to Typhoon Mangkhut ends December 2018; therefore, payment relief is extended to January 2019.

For questions, please contact us by phone, thru email or visit our offices; contact information follows:

Saipan - CDA Building, Oleai
Tel. Nos.: 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 extension 310
Email: c.kintol@developcnmi.com

Tinian - Kings Building
San Jose Village, Tinian
Tel. No. 433-9203
Email: j.sablan@developcnmi.com

Rota - Seven Brothers Building
Songsong Village, Rota
Tel. No. 532-9408
Email: e.manglona@developcnmi.com

/s/ Donnie P. Militante
Acting Executive Director

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Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

(as amended)
November 9, 2018

Due to the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was declared a major disaster by both CNMI Governor, Ralph Torres and the President of the United States, Donald Trump. In view of this declaration and in hopes to provide relief to CDA clients and debtors, the CDA Board of Directors, on October 30, 2018, approved loan payment deferment of four (4) months, from November 2018 to February 2019. No interest will accrue for the entire one-hundred twenty (120) day period. If borrowers and debtors choose to make payments during the loan deferment period, all payments will be applied to the principal loan balance. Additionally, for loans that are delinquent for more than thirty (30) days, this offer on loan payment deferment will not cure the delinquent amounts owed.

For questions, please contact us by phone, thru email, or visit our offices; contact information follows:

Saipan - CDA Building, Oleai
Tel. Nos.: 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
extensions 305, 307 & 309
Email: m.coleman@developcnmi.com

Tinian - Kings Building
San Jose Village, Tinian
Tel. No. 433-9203
Email: j.sablan@developcnmi.com

Rota - Seven Brothers Building
Songsong Village, Rota
Tel. No. 532-9408
Email: e.manglona@developcnmi.com

CDA encourages all its borrowers and debtors to avail of this offer. The Board of Directors, management and staff are hopeful that this offer will assist its borrowers and debtors recuperate during this difficult time.

/s/ Donnie P. Militante
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Governor Victor B. Hocog, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Aubrey M. Hocog, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2017 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 17, 2018. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2018. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

Aubrey M. Hocog
Chairwoman of the Board

VEHICLES FOR BID

"SOLD AS IS"

2017 Toyota Tacoma 4x4

2016 Hyundai Accent Sedan

Last day for bidding is December 14, 2018 at 3:00 pm. For more information, please call Loan Department at 235-6260 ext. 124 or 123. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

Bank of Saipan

Marianas Pride

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. FERMINA A. SABLAN, Defendant. — **Civil Action No. 13-0036**

[AMENDED] NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on May 15, 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Defendant Fermina A. Sablan, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **January 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 681-R-05 (formerly part of Lot 618-R-01, which was also known as Tract 21806, AH 127), Chugai, Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 681 R 01, the original of which was recorded 09 JUN 1987 as Document No. 87-1957, at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the action sale:
   a. to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 7th day of November, 2018.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Philip Pinaula Muna

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DORIS DOLORES PINAULA MUNA, Deceased. — **Civil Action No. 18-0422**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX; and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Judge: Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho
Date: December 20, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Courtroom: U.S. District Courthouse

THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE DORIS DOLORES PINAULA MUNA OR HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, **Philip Pinaula Muna**, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Doris Dolores Pinaula Muna, Decedent.** The attorney for Petitioner is Oliver **Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Philip Pinaula Muna**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **December 20, 2018** at **9:00 a.m.**, at the Northern Mariana Islands District Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of you claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 30th day of October, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court / Deputy Clerk of Court

Off The Wall

Sleeping pilot overflies Australian island destination

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A commercial pilot is under investigation after falling asleep in the cockpit of a freight plane and overflying his Australian island destination by 46 kilometers (29 miles), officials said Tuesday.

The pilot, who has not been identified, was the only person aboard the twin-propeller Piper PA-31 Navajo Chieftain and was flying on autopilot during the early morning flight on Nov. 8 from Devonport city on Tasmania 250 kilometers (155 miles) northwest to King Island in Bass Strait, his employer, Vortex Air, said in a statement.

The pilot "unintentionally fell asleep while in command of the aircraft," the Melbourne-based airline said.

"The issue became apparent when air traffic control was unable to contact the pilot in-flight, and the aircraft traveled past the intended destination point while operating on autopilot," the statement said.

Air traffic control recordings showed several radio calls were made to the unresponsive pilot, The Australian newspaper reported.

The pilot landed safely on King Island, Vortex Air said.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau, a crash and risk investigator, and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, the aviation industry regulator, are investigating the incident and the company's management of pilot fatigue.

The bureau confirmed that the plane had overflown the King Island Airport by 46 kilometers (29 miles) due to the pilot sleeping. It said it would interview the pilot and review Vortex Air's operational procedures before a report on the incident is made public.

Vortex Air said the 6:20 a.m. flight had been the first on the pilot's first day back at work after taking leave. He continued flying that day.

The newspaper said the pilot reported for duty despite having had little or no sleep the previous night due to a personal crisis.

"Vortex Air takes the safety of our passengers, crew and pilots extremely seriously and always abide by all safety procedures," the airline said.

"This is an extremely rare occurrence, as demonstrated by the company's excellent safety track record," it added.

The company said it was assisting the pilot to "safely return to full duties."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police officer rescues chicken from fire

OSSINING, N.Y. (AP)—A police officer who saved a chicken from becoming a roaster is taking a ribbing from his fellow officers. Body cam video released by the Ossining, New York, police shows the officer responding to a shed fire on Saturday. He removed some propane tanks when he discovered the chicken. The bird clucks as the officer carries the bird to safety. He told the owner, "I got your chicken." The police department wrote on Facebook, "Somewhere around the first day of field training some salty cop usually hits you with, 'Kid, you wouldn't believe what goes on around here if I told you.'" The department says if you ever wanted to get a hard time from your co-workers, "be a hero...to a chicken."

Steer too beefy to become burgers reprieved to life on farm

LAKE PRESTON, Australia (AP)—Knickers the steer is huge on the internet—for being huge. The black-and-white Holstein Friesian won social media fame and many proclamations of "Holy Cow!" after photos surfaced of the 194-centimeter (6-foot-4-inch) steer standing head and shoulders above a herd of brown wagyu cattle in Western Australia state. Owner Geoff Pearson said Knickers was too heavy to go to the slaughterhouse. "We have a high turnover of cattle, and he was lucky enough to stay behind," Pearson said. Australian media say Knickers is believed to be the tallest steer in the country and weighs about 1.4 tons. Instead of becoming steaks and burgers, 7-year-old Knickers will get to live out his life in Pearson's fields in Lake Preston, southwest of Perth.

Vermont couple looking for family peacock among the turkeys

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. (AP)—A Vermont woman whose family peacock ran off with a flock of turkeys says she's hopeful to get close enough to catch it with a net. The peacock belonging to Rene and Brian Johnson has been on the run for six weeks. On Wednesday, the Johnsons posted a message on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Facebook page: "My peacock has run off with the turkeys. Do you have any suggestions on how to catch the little twerp?" Rene Johnson told WCAX-TV she thinks the bird she calls Pea was lonely so it sought turkey companions. Johnson said Friday she got close to Pea on Thanksgiving Day, but couldn't catch it. Johnson says she's worried about the cold, but she recognizes the unusual situation, which she says is "kind of funny, actually."

North Carolina woman given wrong lottery ticket wins $277K

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina woman who was given the wrong lottery game ticket is celebrating that mistake. The N.C. Education Lottery said in a news release that Zerineia Carmichael of Goldsboro wanted to buy the Carolina Panthers lottery game ticket Sunday, but the store clerk gave her a "777" ticket instead. Carmichael said she normally would have asked the clerk to give her what she asked for, but she decided instead to keep it. When she began scratching off the card in her car, she thought she had only won $7. She said she kept scratching and seeing more 7′s. When she was done, Carmichael had won $277,777. After state and federal taxes, she took home $195,837, part of which she said she plans to use to get a new car.

Money laundering: Dutch police find cash in washing machine

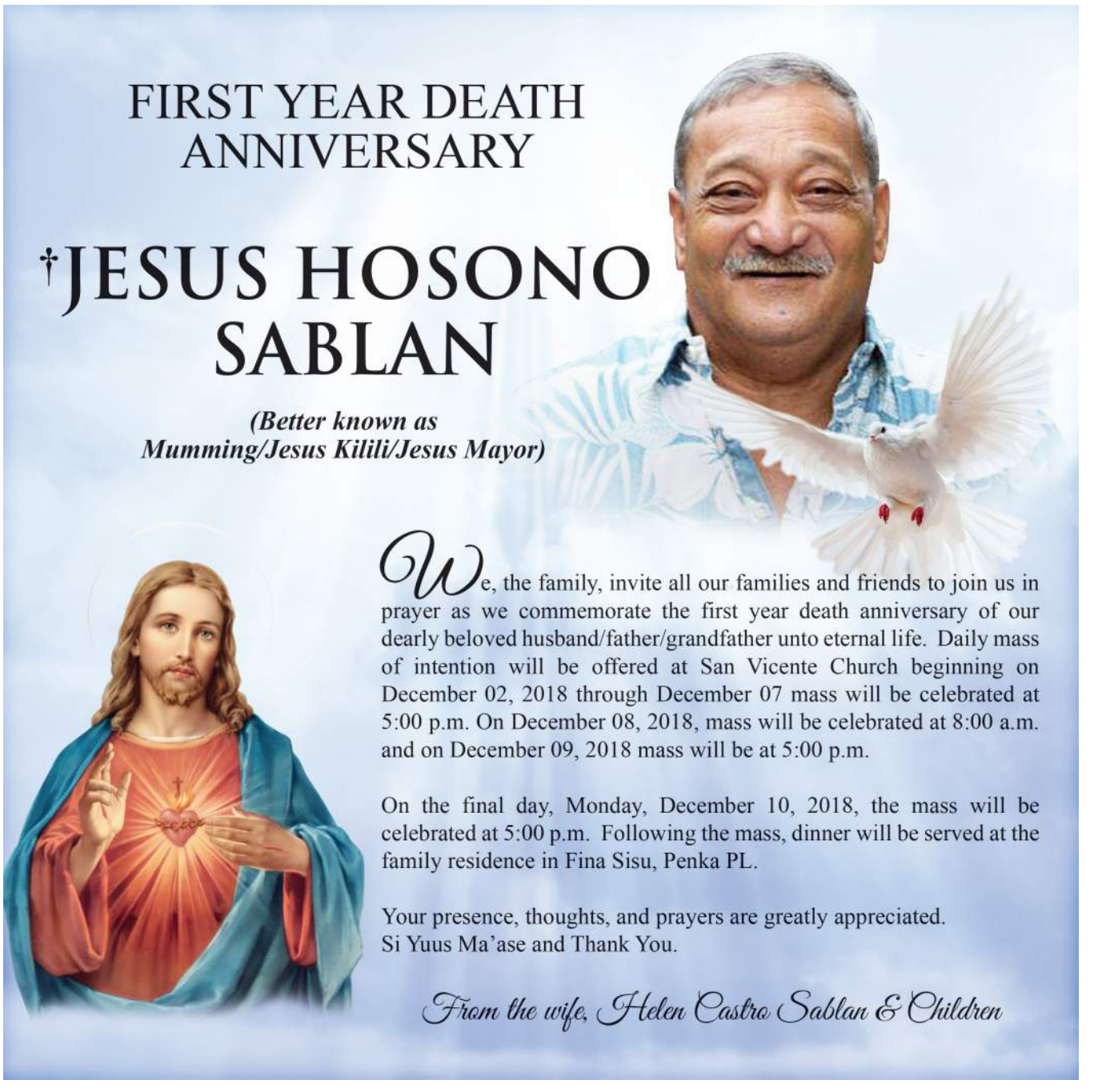
AMSTERDAM (AP)—Dutch police who found 350,000 euros ($400,000) hidden inside a washing machine have detained a man on suspicion of—what else?—money laundering. Police said in a statement Thursday that officers were checking a house in western Amsterdam on Monday for unregistered residents when they found the valuable laundry load. A photo displayed on the police website showed bundles of bank notes, mainly 20- and 50-euro bills, crammed into the drum. The officers also found a money-counting machine, a gun and several cell phones. The 24-year-old suspect's name was not released, in line with Dutch privacy rules.

Iowa council gives final approval to 'toy' firearms ban

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP)—A city council in northwest Iowa has banned people from carrying some types of "toy" firearms. The Sioux City Council voted Monday for a third time to adopt an ordinance that bans pellet and BB guns. The ordinance doesn't ban Nerf or squirt guns, or guns that shoot suction-cup darts. Sioux City Police Capt. Mark Kirkpatrick has said officers have had multiple encounters with replica weapons and faced the question of whether to use deadly force. He has said people carrying toy firearms tend to be teenagers or young adults seeking personal protection or street credibility. The Sioux City Police Department says no one in the city has died from a police encounter while carrying a toy firearm, but that there are more than 50 such deaths nationwide each year.

Houston-area ATM mistakenly dispenses $100 bills, not $10s

HOUSTON (AP)—An ATM in the Houston area has been shut down and was temporarily guarded by law officers after mistakenly dispensing $100 bills instead of $10s and word of the glitch got out on social media. Some Harris County sheriff's deputies protected the outdoor ATM after Sunday night's incident and notified Bank of America. A bank statement Monday says a vendor incorrectly loaded $100 bills in place of $10 bills. Bank of America also says customers will be able to keep the additional dispensed money. Officials with North Carolina-based Bank of America didn't say how much cash was wrongly dispensed.


FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†JESUS HOSONO SABLAN
(Better known as Mumming/Jesus Kilili/Jesus Mayor)
We, the family, invite all our families and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dearly beloved husband/father/grandfather unto eternal life. Daily mass of intention will be offered at San Vicente Church beginning on December 02, 2018 through December 07 mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. On December 08, 2018, mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and on December 09, 2018 mass will be at 5:00 p.m.
On the final day, Monday, December 10, 2018, the mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. Following the mass, dinner will be served at the family residence in Fina Sisu, Penka PL.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yuus Ma'ase and Thank You.
From the wife, Helen Castro Sablan & Children

Science & Technology

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2018

By DON LINDICH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

These 25 great gifts cost less than $200.

HEADPHONES AND EARPHONES

Panasonic RP-HTX80B Bluetooth Retro Headphones, $99: Great-sounding, great-looking, light and comfortable, these headphones offer balanced and accurate high fidelity sound. Battery life is 24 hours and a 15-minute quick charge yields 2.5 hours of playback. shop.panasonic.com

Sbode Sport Bluetooth Earphones, $24: These earphones sound far better than you would expect for under $25, are comfortable, and come with a case in nice packaging. Through Dec. 20 an online coupon reduces the price to $18.49, making them a perfect stocking stuffer or corporate gift. amazon.com.

Grado SR60E headphones $79: These wired, open-back audiophile headphones are where high-end sound quality begins. An additional $20 will get you the $99 SR80E, which has more bass and slightly better sound overall. gradolabs.com

Audio-Technica QuietPoint ATH-ANC700BT Wireless Noise-Cancelling Headphones, $199: In a nutshell, these sound better than the competing noise cancelling Bose headphones for a lot less money. audio-technica.com

Cambridge Audio SE1 wired earphones: The best $50 earphones you can buy, with the SE1 you get high-end sound from a high-end manufacturer, and 50 percent of the proceeds from the sale go to charity. cambridgeaudio.com

TURNTABLES AND VINYL RECORD ACCESSORIES

LP Gear The Vessel A3SE $99: This $99 phono cartridge was my product of the year for 2017 and offers shockingly good sound that is competitive with cartridges selling for $400 or more. It is perfect for bringing an old turntable back to life, and the $138 premounted Ultimate Set is a simple and spectacular upgrade for the ubiquitous Audio-Technica AT-LP120-USB turntable. lpgear.com

AT-LP60-USB, $129: This is far and away the best entry-level turntable and unlike many cheap competitors, it won't damage your records. It features automatic operation, a built-in phono preamp and a USB connection to transfer records to your computer. audio-technica.com

Allsop Orbitrac 3 Record Cleaning System, $49: This excellent record cleaner is also very easy to use. allsop.com

Spin-Clean Record Washer, $79.99: Spin-Clean gives your records a deep cleaning as good as or better than an expensive record cleaning machine. It is a bit more work than the Orbitrac 3, but it does a better job. spinclean.com

Pangea Audio TTx2 Vulcan Turntable Stand with Mega Record Storage, $199: This stylish, solidly-built turntable stand has storage for 200 records. audioadvisor.com

TELEVISION SOUNDBARS

ZVOX AccuVoice AV201 TV Speaker $199.99: Not a home theater soundbar but a small speaker that optimizes dialogue reproduction, no other product does a better job bringing vocal clarity to television listeners. If you have trouble hearing and understanding voices on television, this is what you need. zvox.com

Soundcore Infini Integrated 2.1-Channel Soundbar $99.99: This soundbar has clean, well-defined sound and a built-in subwoofer for solid bass. soundcore.com

BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

Cambridge Audio Yoyo(S) $179.99: This is the highest quality Bluetooth speaker available for under $200. It features exotic BMR driver technology for superior sound and is wrapped in colorful, high quality worsted wool. The Yoyo(S) appeals to the eyes, ears and fingers and is a bargain for under $200. Through Nov. 30 it is on sale for only $139 with the code 22YOYOSMALL. cambridgeaudio.com

Soundcast VG1: $149.99: This compact, premium quality waterproof speaker is rugged and has clear, dynamic sound. gosoundcast.com

COOKING GADGETS

Meater Wireless Meat Thermometer: This is a great accessory to use with your grill, oven or the Masterbuilt smoker. The $69 Meater has 33 feet of range and the $99 Meater+ has 165 feet of range. meater.com

TELEVISION AND VIDEO

Air TV, $119.99: Connect an antenna to AirTV and it will stream free local television broadcasts to televisions and portable devices throughout your home, and even outside the home. Add an external hard drive and it works as a DVR, recording up to two channels at once. airtv.net

Amazon Fire Stick 4K, $49.99: This is one of the best ways to turn your TV into a smart TV, and if you have Amazon Prime it's a must-have. As the name suggests it supports 4K streaming. amazon.com

TABLETS AND CELLPHONE ACCESSORIES

VicTsing Bluetooth FM Adapter with 1.44-inch display, $16.99: Add two USB ports, MicroSD card music playback, hands-free Bluetooth phone calling and music streaming to your older car for under $20. amazon.com

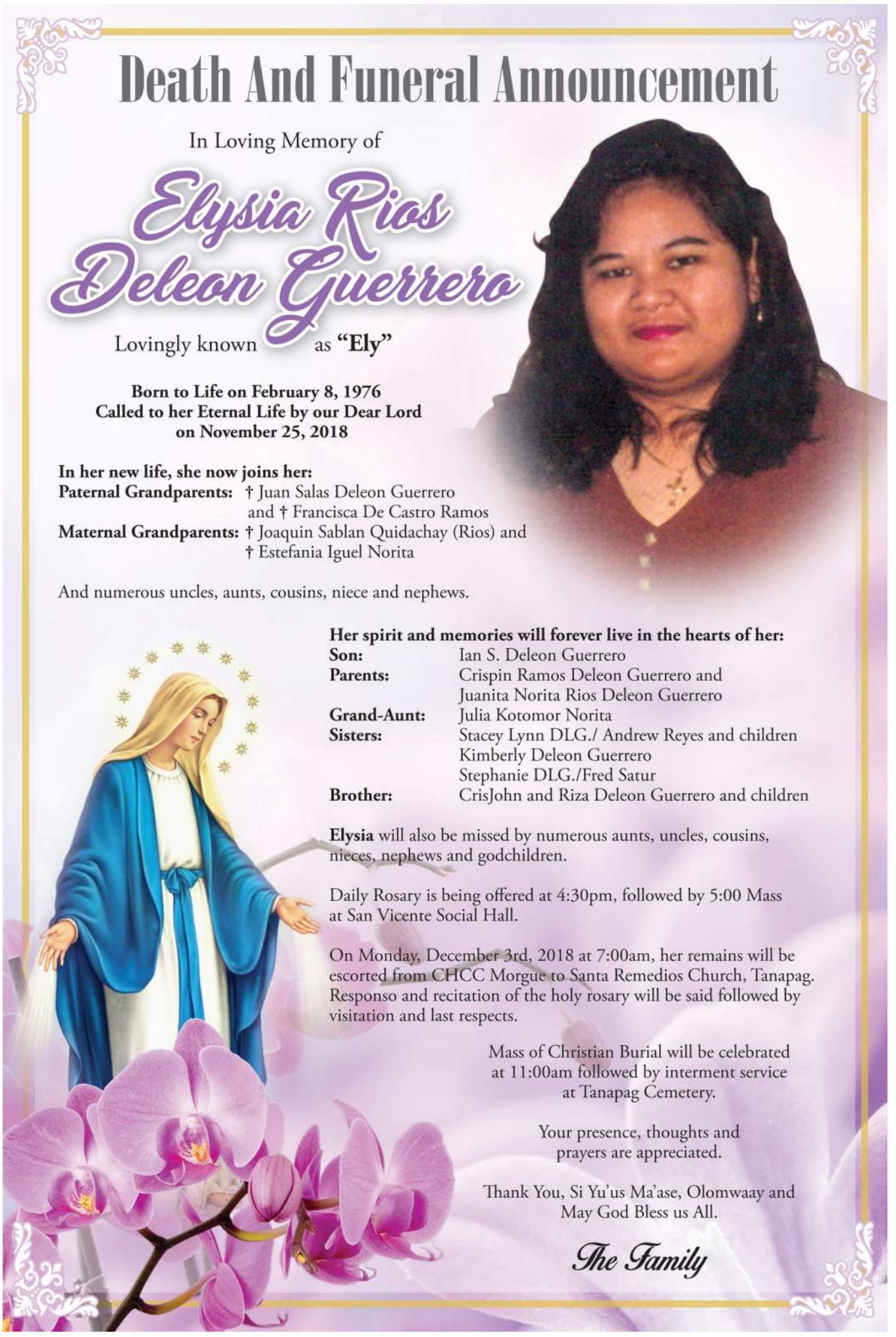
Anker PowerCore Fusion, $25.99: This ingenious wall rapid charger has a built-in battery so it can charge your devices even without an outlet. When plugged in it charges itself as well as your devices. anker.com

Amazon Fire Tablets: If you are on a budget, Amazon's Fire Tablets are where a high quality tablet experience begins. The Fire 7 is $49.99, the Fire HD 8 is $79.99 and the HD10 is $149.99. amazon.com

Coal Catalyst Portable Charger, $55: This technologically advanced, high capacity power bank comes with a "triple threat" charging cable with MicroUSB, Lightning and USB 3.0 heads so it can charge devices from any manufacturer. It has a digital readout and charges quickly via USB-C. It is a major bargain given its quality, capacity and capabilities. coalpower.com

GAMING

Nintendo Classic Edition Consoles, $59.99 and $79.99: A gift sure to be loved by gamers both young and old, the NES ($59.99) and SNES ($79.99) mini game consoles come with lots of preloaded classic games. Gameplay and graphics are flawless and the included HDMI cable makes connecting it to your modern TV a snap. nintendo.com


Death And Funeral Announcement
In Loving Memory of
Elysia Rios Deleon Guerrero
Lovingly known as "Ely"
Born to Life on February 8, 1976
Called to her Eternal Life by our Dear Lord
on November 25, 2018
In her new life, she now joins her:
Paternal Grandparents: † Juan Salas Deleon Guerrero and † Francisca De Castro Ramos
Maternal Grandparents: † Joaquin Sablan Quidachay (Rios) and † Estefania Iguel Norita
And numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, niece and nephews.
Her spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Son: Ian S. Deleon Guerrero
Parents: Crispin Ramos Deleon Guerrero and Juanita Norita Rios Deleon Guerrero
Grand-Aunt: Julia Kotomor Norita
Sisters: Stacey Lynn DLG./ Andrew Reyes and children
Kimberly Deleon Guerrero
Stephanie DLG./Fred Satur
Brother: CrisJohn and Riza Deleon Guerrero and children
Elysia will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and godchildren.
Daily Rosary is being offered at 4:30pm, followed by 5:00 Mass at San Vicente Social Hall.
On Monday, December 3rd, 2018 at 7:00am, her remains will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag. Responso and recitation of the holy rosary will be said followed by visitation and last respects.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Tanapag Cemetery.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are appreciated.
Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and May God Bless us All.
The Family

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ariana Grande in new four-part docu-series on YouTube

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ariana Grande is giving fans an all-access pass into her musical life through a new documentary series on YouTube. The streaming service says Grande will be featured in "Ariana Grande: Dangerous Woman Diaries." The four-part series is set to launch Thursday on the "No Tears Left to Cry" singer's YouTube channel. The series will show highlights from the making of Grande's latest album, "Sweetener," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 chart in August. The documentary will also show new footage from her Dangerous Woman Tour, which was suspended after a terrorist bombing killed 22 and injured more than 500 at Manchester Arena in May 2017. Parts of Grande's One Love Manchester concert that helped raise money for the bombing victims will also be shown.

Atwood writing 'Handmaid's Tale' sequel, out in 2019

NEW YORK (AP)—Thanks to public demand, and a certain American president, Margaret Atwood is writing a sequel to her million-selling "The Handmaid's Tale." "The Testaments" will be published next September by Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, the publisher announced Wednesday. The book is set 15 years after the final scene of Offred, narrator of "The Handmaid's Tale." Atwood's novel about a dystopian society in the imagined land of Gilead was a best seller when first published in 1985 and was back on the charts after Donald Trump's election in 2016. The novel is also the basis for an acclaimed series on Hulu. Atwood, a Canadian author, said in a statement that the sequel was inspired by readers' questions about Gilead and by the "world we've been living in."

Beyonce to perform at South African concert honoring Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Beyonce, Jay-Z and Ed Sheeran are among the stars scheduled to perform at a South African concert on Sunday in honor of the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, a century after he was born. The Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100 will be hosted in Johannesburg by South Africa's Motsepe Foundation, which seeks to reduce poverty through education and job creation. The foundation is partnering with Global Citizen, an international advocacy group that supports sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. The group is also promoting other events ahead of the festival. Oprah Winfrey is among the influential figures taking part in activities, delivering a keynote address about Mandela's legacy at the festival. Nobel Peace Prize winner Mandela, South Africa's first black president, died in 2013 at age 95.

Foo Fighters to headline pre-Super Bowl concert in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—The Foo Fighters will headline a pre-Super Bowl concert in Atlanta. News outlets report the 12-time Grammy award-winning group will headline the DirecTV Super Saturday Night concert Feb. 2 at a temporary venue to be constructed onsite at Atlantic Station. The event's executive producer said Wednesday that the three-tiered complex will be around 72,000 square feet (6,689 sq. meters) with the capacity for about 6,000. Valerie Vargas with AT&T says the Foo Fighters are known to collaborate with a wide range of performers who attract music lovers across the board. Tickets for the concert will go on sale at 9 a.m. Nov. 30 through www.ticketmaster.com . All general admission tickets will be standing-room only, floor level. The Super Bowl will be Feb. 3 at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Rita Moreno joins Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story' film

NEW YORK (AP)—Rita Moreno's portrayal of Anita in the classic 1961 film "West Side Story" won her an Oscar. Now, she has a different part in a remake directed by Steven Spielberg. The publicist for the 86-year-old Moreno confirmed Wednesday that she'll play Valentina, a reworked version of the character of Doc, the owner of a corner store where Tony works. Ansel Elgort has been cast as Tony. The story follows two star-crossed lovers, Tony and Maria, who are each associated with rival New York street gangs. The Pulitzer-winning playwright Tony Kushner is adapting the script. Moreno will also serve as an executive producer. Filming is set to begin next summer.

Missy Elliott on Songwriters Hall nod: 'I feel so blessed'

NEW YORK (AP)—For Missy Elliott, being a good friend and listener turned into songwriting gold. Conversations with her girlfriends fueled a great deal of her songwriting, Elliott said, resulting in her turning those stories into smash hits, from Monica's "So Gone," a No. 1 R&B success, to Fantasia's "Free Yourself." "I would be around friends and a lot of times (and) everybody's just laughing and playing, but I would listen to the stories and use those in songs because they were like everyday topics for the girls that I hung around (with)," Elliott said in an interview with The Associated Press this week. "They didn't know that, but I was just sitting there like, 'Wow, that's a song.'" "You keep going through the same thing with the same dude, keep going back, over and over again and we keep sitting here listening, saying 'we ain't gon' be there next time when you go back,' and we right here again sitting through the same story," she added, laughing.

CHRISTMAS IN NYC AP

The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is lit during the 86th annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting ceremony, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, in New York.

Mother thinks teen is missing out by dating over the phone

DEAR ABBY: I am a 17-year-old girl who has been in a long-distance relationship for two years. We're still in high school and actively involved in sports and extracurricular activities. During the fall months I cheer, and in the winter months he plays basketball. Our schedules only really allow for texting and FaceTiming rather than going out.

Although our time is spent communicating on the phone, I feel we have a strong connection, and I am devoted to him. However, my mom is concerned "because I'm not dating and taking advantage of opportunities that could come with dating someone closer." She criticizes him nonstop and thinks he's making excuses and avoiding a commitment. She'd like to see me going out and having fun with someone like most girls my age do.

I don't think he's making excuses, and I don't feel as though I'm missing out on any opportunities. This disagreement is causing an issue between my mom and me. I feel that he's The One, but Mom is finding it challenging to accept this. I would love to hear your advice.

FAR, BUT CLOSE, IN MICHIGAN

DEAR F. BUT C.: You may feel that this young man is "The One," but your mother has a point. Please listen to her. Rather than sit home every night because you are devoted only to him, you should socialize and develop non-romantic relationships. It wouldn't be betraying him. Most young people go out in groups, and that's what you should be doing. This may be what your mother is trying to convey rather than saying he isn't The One.

Also, you and this young man have years of education to complete before you'll be in a position to formalize your relationship. While you are doing that, both of you will meet new people and be offered opportunities that may broaden your horizons. Think about it.

DEAR ABBY: For the past two years, my husband, "Dennis," has worked Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. He's in a business where he doesn't have to be the only one to work these holidays. He volunteers to do it because of the tips and holiday pay. When I walked into the office today, I saw a note he had written to his boss asking to work both holidays again.

Years ago when my father was alive, he hosted Christmas Eve for our family. Then the tradition was handed down to me, and I proudly hosted them. Now that Dennis and I are together, our place is too small, so I asked my son to do it and he gladly agreed.

My problem is, I will have to go to my son's alone again for Christmas Eve, and my son and daughter-in-law feel insulted because Dennis won't come for the holidays. How do I deal with this?

HUSBANDLESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS, AGAIN

DEAR HUSBANDLESS: It appears you and Dennis have been married only a short time. Was he like this when you were dating? If the answer is no, it's time to ask him if he intends to continue working holidays indefinitely. And when you do, let him know that his refusal to spend family time with your son and daughter-in-law hurts their feelings as well as yours.

If that doesn't convince him to compromise, you will have to explain to your son and his wife that Dennis prefers to work rather than attend holiday celebrations and to please not take it personally because it's not personal.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

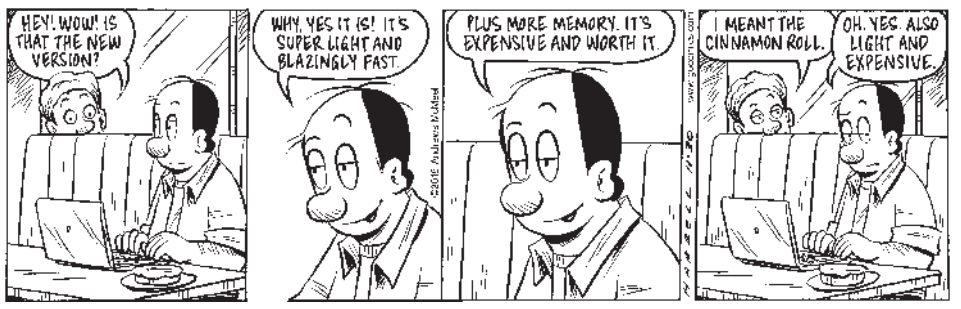
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

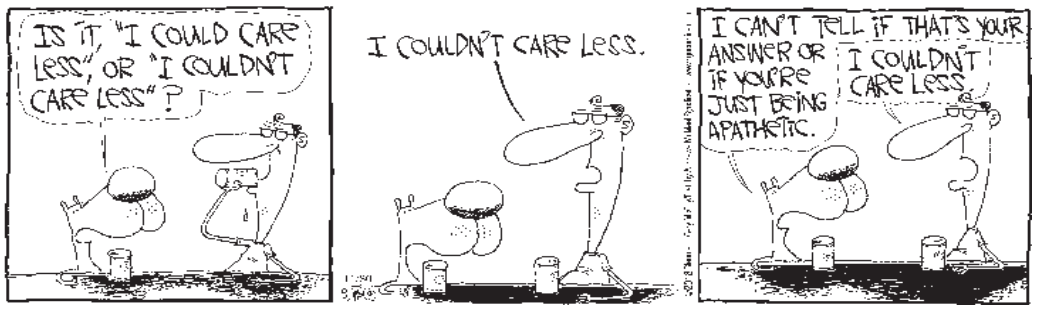
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY! WOW! IS THAT THE NEW VERSION?
WHY, YES IT IS! IT'S SUPER LIGHT AND BLAZINGLY FAST.
PLUS MORE MEMORY. IT'S EXPENSIVE AND WORTH IT.
I MEANT THE CINNAMON ROLL.
OH. YES. ALSO LIGHT AND EXPENSIVE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IS IT, "I COULD CARE LESS", OR "I COULDN'T CARE LESS"?
I COULDN'T CARE LESS.
I CAN'T TELL IF THAT'S YOUR ANSWER OR IF YOU'RE JUST BEING APATHETIC.
I COULDN'T CARE LESS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

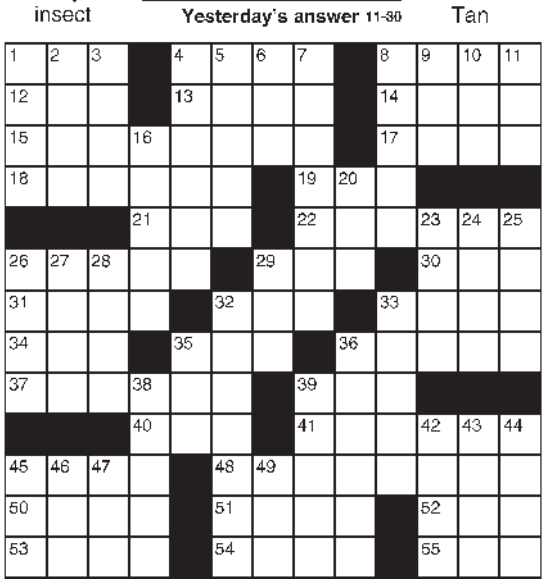
ACROSS
1 God, to Galileo
4 Morsels
8 It takes the cake
12 Lyricist Gershwin
13 Exam format
14 Heap
15 Hindu royal
17 Falling-out
18 Use a water pistol
19 CEO's deg.
21 Fish eggs
22 Composer Gustav
26 Threaded hardware
29 Favorite
30 College URL ender
31 Debtors' notes
32 — Lancelot
33 Batting practice area
34 Louvre collection
35 Busy insect
36 Goofed
37 Hawaiian "thank you"
39 Airport screening org.
40 Furry foot
41 Vinegary
45 Dread
48 Furniture wood
50 Hotel chain
51 Cupid's specialty
52 Ode title starter
53 List-ending abbr.
54 Russian refusal
55 Raggedy doll

DOWN
1 Darkens
2 Baghdad's land
3 Pearl Harbor site
4 Obtain a loan
5 Livid
6 Mahal preceder
7 Jail, slangily
8 Media mogul Winfrey
9 Half of XIV
10 Sprite
11 Court divider
16 Buenos —
20 Night flier
23 Shakespearean king
24 Rim
25 Regretted
26 Thailand, once
27 "Downton Abbey" countess
28 Old Testament book
29 Deep hole
32 Frosty, for one
33 007 portrayer Daniel
35 In the style of
36 Chaperone
38 Earth Day month
39 Western resort lake
42 Facts and figures
43 Privy to
44 Printer's blue
45 Nemesis
46 Ambulance VIP
47 Santa — winds
49 Author Tan

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	T	A	Y	■	H	E	M	P	■	O	A	T
L	E	G	O	■	A	N	N	A	■	F	L	O
A	R	M	C	W	R	O	O	T	■	F	■	B
G	R	A	H	A	M	■	■	T	E	S	T	Y
■	■	■	C	X	■	U	R	I	A	H	■	■
D	O	J	O	■	E	N	E	■	I	O	M	B
A	V	A	■	■	C	O	I	■	■	O	O	O
M	A	C	S	■	R	U	N	■	E	T	O	N
■	■	■	K	A	P	U	T	■	H	A	■	■
F	A	B	L	O	■	■	F	J	H	S	E	S
R	I	O	■	L	I	G	H	T	F	O	O	T
A	D	O	■	K	N	E	E	■	U	L	N	A
M	A	■	■	A	N	E	W	■	L	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 11-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kaley Cuoco, 33; Elisha Cuthbert, 36; Ben Stiller, 53; Billy Idol, 63.

Happy Birthday: Traveling and dealing with authority figures will be taxing. Make sure you have all your personal documentation, licenses and financial interests updated. Offering an honest appraisal of situations you are involved in will be necessary to avoid setbacks. Embrace change, but don't get involved with anyone trying to beat the system using false information or other means. Your numbers are 8, 10, 21, 28, 37, 42, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look out for your own interests. Take control and stay on top of the little details. Someone will use emotional manipulation to lure you into something that won't be financially beneficial. Don't get involved in joint ventures. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Get along with your peers. You'll accomplish far more if you have added support and the help required to reach your target. Timing is everything, and avoiding being short-handed can make a difference. Leave no room for error. Offer concise instructions. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be realistic about your plans. Don't make promises you can't keep. Concentrate more on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Discord will prevail if anyone's honesty is questioned. Live moderately and avoid complicating matters. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Personal improvements will make you feel good but also lead to added stress if you go over the budget. Calculate the costs involved before you get started or your plans will turn into a multitude of mishaps. Unexpected problems can be expected. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You can have fun without going into debt. Consider what you enjoy doing most, and look for ways to fit your plans to a set budget. Indulgent behavior can turn into a costly affair. Deception and disillusionment are apparent. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make plans that will bring you closer to someone you love and respect. Discussing sensitive issues will need to be handled with care. Getting your facts straight and having a reasonable solution in mind will help you avoid discord. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make changes to the way you handle your money. Gather information from an expert who can help you differentiate between what's possible and what isn't. It's OK to dream, but when it comes time to decide, practicality will be required. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Relying on others will be questionable. Someone you've known a long time will lead you astray. Stay away from individuals who are a poor influence or encourage bad habits or lifestyles. Do your own thing and avoid regret. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look at the logistics of any deal you are trying to make and the people involved. If anyone or anything appears suspicious, back away and spare yourself the grief of the red tape and risk involved. Focus on personal improvement. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An unusual opportunity will grab your attention. Before you decide to take a chance, consider who is involved and do a background check. A smooth talker is likely to take advantage of you if you aren't informed. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A prospect will not turn out as planned. Before you make a change, get what you want in writing. A partnership is riding on a misconception or ulterior motives. Don't leave anything to chance. Protect your assets, possessions and your heart. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to what and who you know best. Don't trust in a new acquaintance who has wild ideas and plenty of charm. An emotional situation will escalate quickly if you are too trusting or you haven't done your homework. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, trendy and demonstrative. You are possessive and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	7		1			3
	3		2		8	
			8			9
3	8					
	2				6	
				4		1
2		5				
	7		3		4	
4		1		2		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	7	2	4	5	8	9	3	6
5	6	4	2	3	9	1	8	7
3	9	8	1	7	6	5	2	4
8	1	3	5	6	4	7	9	2
2	5	6	7	9	3	8	4	1
9	4	7	8	1	2	6	5	3
6	2	5	9	4	1	3	7	8
7	8	1	3	2	5	4	6	9
4	3	9	6	8	7	2	1	5

Pit Today Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

INSURANCE IS ESSENTIAL **Solution: 4 letters**

P	C	E	F	I	L	A	P	P	R	A	I	S	A	L
R	R	E	S	P	O	R	T	S	L	T	T	D	T	A
E	E	O	R	U	Ⓢ	Ⓢ	O	Ⓛ	E	N	E	T	F	W
M	S	N	T	T	O	R	U	E	A	T	G	I	E	S
I	S	M	E	E	I	H	L	N	I	Y	A	B	H	E
U	O	K	I	W	C	F	E	M	R	M	T	R	T	L
M	F	T	S	A	A	T	I	A	P	R	T	O	N	B
S	F	S	U	I	L	L	I	C	L	E	O	K	E	I
T	I	W	S	A	R	C	O	V	A	T	C	E	D	T
I	C	A	S	E	I	V	S	L	E	T	H	R	I	C
F	E	P	B	F	E	D	A	M	A	G	E	S	C	U
E	A	A	E	R	O	F	I	R	E	T	N	T	C	D
N	T	N	A	O	E	L	A	S	I	G	N	O	A	E
E	E	G	L	I	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	E	L	D
B	E	F	E	T	A	T	S	R	A	C	O	N	D	O

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Accident, Appraisal, Auto, Beneficiary, Benefits, Brokers, Cars, Certificate, Claims, Condo, Cottage, Coverage, Damages, Date, Deductible, Dental, Fees, Fire, Fleet, Floods, Health, House, Hull, Laws, Liability, Life, Limited, Long, Loss, Office, Premiums, Protective, Rebate, Renewal, Risks, Sale, Sign, Span, Sports, State, Swap, Tenants, Term, Theft

Yesterday's Answer: Bedding

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P.O. Box 504357 CK
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Contact no. 670-234-9700
E-mail: anniep@gppcinc.com

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LeBron reportedly ignoring Walton's play calls

AP
Los Angeles Lakers coach Luke Walton, right, and forward LeBron James checks on the clock during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018, in San Antonio.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Entering LeBron James' free agency, multiple reports indicated his desire to play off the ball more in his new contract. When he signed with the Los Angeles Lakers, James praised Lonzo Ball and endorsed Rajon Rondo, the two pass-first point guards who would be responsible for his supposed adjustment. Come training camp, James went so far as to say this relinquishment of duties was "key for our team."

This was all ridiculous, of course, because James is one of the two greatest players in basketball history, primarily as a direct result of his ability to control the game, and there was no way he was ever going to cede that stewardship to Ball or Rondo when it came actually came to winning time.

Now, six weeks into his debut season with the Lakers, not only is James serving as the team's lead facilitator, he is ignoring coach Luke Walton's offensive direction, according to ESPN report.

This is par for the course for James, who has usurped his coach's command at every stop, with the possible exception of the Miami Heat's Erik Spoelstra (only after Pat Riley ignored calls for his firing). And who can blame him? His ball dominance has produced eight straight NBA Finals appearances and three championship rings. He is one of the game's great passers, and his encyclopedic knowledge of every defensive tactic ever thrown at him over 16 seasons exceeds most, if not all, active coaches.

James leads all Lakers in usage rate (30.4 percent), time of possession (5.6 minutes per game) and time per touch (4.27 seconds), as it should be for a four-time MVP without another All-Star at his side.

It should be pointed out that the Lakers owned a Top 10 offense before Rondo suffered a broken hand on Nov. 14, and the team has dipped to 26th in that regard in six games since the injury. This period of time, which features a 3-3 record, coincides with an uptick in LeBron's overall control of the offense.

It's got to be frustrating if you're Walton, trying to steer a team when the player who all your developing talents are looking to for guidance is straight-up ignoring you. That this falls on the heels of reports that Lakers players are "discontent" with Walton's lineups and team president Magic Johnson "admonished" the coach for their poor start is not a ringing endorsement of his authority.

This is the reason the Cleveland Cavaliers were left without an offensive system without James, to the point that Tyronn Lue was fired for failing to revamp his offense immediately upon losing LeBron. Such is the deal one makes when he signs on to coach a notoriously controlling superstar.

Westbrook ties for 3rd in triple-doubles, Thunder beat Cavs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook was more introspective than usual Wednesday night.

The 2017 MVP moved into a tie for third place on the NBA list for triple-doubles with 23 points, 19 rebounds and 15 assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder completed a regular-season sweep of the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers with a 100-83 victory.

Westbrook's triple-double was his third this season—all in the last four games—and the 107th of his career, matching Jason Kidd and trailing only Oscar Robertson (181) and Magic Johnson (138). Kidd took 1,247 games to reach 107, while Westbrook needed only 760.

The 19 rebounds were one off Westbrook's career high, set in last season's finale against Memphis. And when the star guard addressed the media long after the game ended, he spoke more from the heart than he often does.

"I am extremely blessed and humbled to be able to go out and play and compete in the NBA," Westbrook said. "Just to be named with Jason Kidd and Magic and Oscar and those guys, I could have never dreamt about being able to even sit here talking to you guys. I take everything in and never take anything for granted."

Jerami Grant added 21 points, one shy of his career best, on 8-of-12 shooting for the Thunder, who have won 13 of 16 after an 0-4 start.

Jordan Clarkson led Cleveland with 25 points, while Collin Sexton (21 points, 10 rebounds) and Cedi Osman (14 points, 10 rebounds) each had a double-double. The Cavaliers agreed to trade Kyle Korver to Utah after the team had arrived at Chesapeake Energy Arena, leaving them with only nine players in uniform. Eight got into the game.

Oklahoma City trailed 55-51 in the third quarter when Westbrook started a 13-0 run with a 3-pointer. He capped it by assisting on a dunk by Grant with 5:36 left in the period that completed the triple-double and put the Thunder up 64-55.

By the end of the quarter, the Thunder led 73-62 and the Cavaliers got no closer than nine the rest of the way.

"I just thought they physically wore us down," Cleveland coach Larry Drew said. "They wore us down and our execution wasn't as good in the second half as it was in the first. We kind of looked like we were tired in that second half. They took away our ability to move and to try to make plays."

Mavericks 128, Rockets 108

In Houston, rookie Luka Doncic and Devin Harris each scored 20 points, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Houston Rockets, despite a triple-double by James Harden.

Harden had 25 points, 17 assists and 11 rebounds, but it wasn't nearly enough for a team missing Chris Paul because of an injury. Houston dropped its fourth in a row after winning a season-high five straight.

Dallas used an 11-2 spurt to push its lead to 117-95 with seven minutes left, prompting Houston coach Mike D'Antoni to clear the bench.

It's the third straight win for the Mavericks and just their second victory on the road this season.

Paul sat out for the third straight game after resting the first game and missing the last two with a sore left hamstring.

Timberwolves 128, Spurs 89

In Minneapolis, Robert Covington scored 21 points, and the Timberwolves earned their fourth straight win.

Minnesota (11-11) reached .500 for the first time since Oct. 31. Karl-Anthony Towns and Derrick Rose each had 16 points, and Taj Gibson finished with 13.

The Timberwolves had dropped 14 of their last 15 against San Antonio, but it held the Spurs to 39.5 percent shooting.

Jakob Poeltl led San Antonio with 14 points, and Marco Belinelli had 11.

Minnesota improved to 7-2 since trading disgruntled star Jimmy Butler to Philadelphia in exchange for Covington, Dario Saric, Jerryd Bayless and a second-round draft pick.

Bucks 116, Bulls 113

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and Khris Middleton made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left to lift Milwaukee over Chicago.

Antetokounmpo and the Bucks (15-6) won an entertaining duel with former teammate Jabari Parker, who put up 24 points, eight rebounds and five assists in his latest return to Milwaukee. Parker signed with the Bulls last offseason after spending his first four NBA seasons with the Bucks.

Malcolm Brogdon smartly passed the ball back to a wide-open Middleton at the top of the 3-point arc to set up the winning shot. Justin Holiday missed a 3 for Chicago that would have tied it in the final seconds.

Jazz 101, Nets 91

In New York, Donovan Mitchell returned from a two-game absence with 29 points, taking over down the stretch and leading Utah past Brooklyn.

Mitchell showed no effects from his bruised ribs, scoring 12 points in the final 5:42 to help the Jazz seize control of a close game.

Rudy Gobert had 23 points and 16 rebounds for the Jazz, who bounced back from a miserable performance in their last game without Mitchell, a 121-88 home loss to Indiana on Monday. Mitchell scored mostly on drives into the lane but nailed a 3-pointer that made it 93-89.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 18 points off the bench for the Nets, who dropped their season-high fourth straight.

Pelicans 125, Wizards 104

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 28 points and 15 rebounds as New Orleans stemmed a four-game slide with a victory over Washington.

Jrue Holiday scored 29 points and Julius Randle added 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans, who put Tim Frazier in the starting lineup at point guard and slid Holiday over to shooting guard.

Frazier had 12 points and 12 assists in his third start of the season. Nikola Mirotic added 15 points and nine rebounds.

76ers 117, Knicks 91

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid put on a show with his father in the stands for the first time this season, collecting 26 points and 14 rebounds while leading Philadelphia to the victory.

Embiid's spin move into a one-handed jam earned a smile and applause from Thomas Embiid, a colonel in the Cameroon military who is visiting from the family's home country and plans to spend a few weeks with his MVP candidate son.

JJ Redick hit four 3s and scored 24 points for the 76ers. Ben Simmons had 14 points.

Enes Kanter and Mario Hezonja each scored 17 points for the Knicks.

Hornets 108, Hawks 94

In Charlotte, Jeremy Lamb scored 22 points, Cody Zeller had a season-high 19 and Charlotte avenged a loss to Atlanta.

The Hawks topped the Hornets 124-123 on Sunday night at home when John Collins blocked Kemba Walker's shot at the buzzer. But this one wasn't close.

Charlotte (11-10) limited Atlanta to 34 percent shooting from the field to move back above .500 on the season and improve to 8-3 at home.

Neymar sets record in Champions League

PARIS (AP)— Neymar became Brazil's all-time leading scorer in the Champions League with his first-half goal the eventual game winner in Paris Saint-Germain's 2-1 victory over Liverpool.

Juan Bernat opened the scoring for the hosts, who earned a measure of revenge against the Reds, who beat them at Anfield earlier in the group stage. Neymar added the second before James Milner pulled one back from the penalty spot on the stroke of halftime.

PSG's all-planet front line of Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani and Neymar combined for the decisive strike, with the latter slotting home Cavani's rebound after the Uruguayan was set up by World Cup winner Mbappe.

It was a crucial triumph for the Parisians, who moved past Liverpool into second place in Group C, just one point behind Napoli. The Reds will host the Italian side Dec. 11 on the final matchday of the first round, while PSG will travel to Serbia to face already-eliminated Red Star Belgrade.

In other news, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich put aside their domestic worries to impress on the European stage and qualify for the knockout rounds of the Champions League, while both Manchester clubs, Roma, Ajax, and Juventus also advanced to the last 16 with one game to spare.

Following a 3-0 humiliating loss in the Spanish league at the weekend, three-time defending European champion Madrid recovered with a 2-0 win at Roma that secured first place in its group, and Bayern demolished Benfica 5-1 in the wake of yet another disappointing result in the Bundesliga.

Despite its home loss, Roma also advanced from Group G, with both teams knowing they were through following Viktoria Plzen's earlier 2-1 win at CSKA Moscow.

Gareth Bale put Madrid ahead at the Stadio Olimpico early in the second half before Lucas Vazquez doubled the visitors' lead from close range in the 59th minute.

Manchester City again struggled against Lyon and needed an 83rd-minute equalizer from Sergio Aguero to salvage a 2-2 draw in Group F and seal its spot in the knockout stage. Lyon is the last team to beat City, which has won 12 of its 14 games since a 2-1 home loss to Lyon in September.

After twice squandering a two-goal lead against Duesseldorf over the weekend, Bayern displayed its attacking force to give some respite to coach Niko Kovac, whose position looked under threat before the game.

Bayern leads Group E with 13 points, two more than Ajax, which cannot be overtaken by third-place Benfica. The Dutch side hosts its German rival to decide the group winner on Dec. 12.

Ajax moved into the last 16 for the first time in 12 years with a 2-0 win over 10-man AEK Athens, in a game marred by fan violence in and around the stadium.

Meanwhile, Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski scored twice to break the 50-goal barrier in Europe's top competition and join an elite group of seven players having achieved the feat. Lewandowski has now scored 51 Champions League goals, one more than former Arsenal striker Thierry Henry, but the Poland captain remains far away from Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 121 goals.

Arjen Robben also scored twice for the German champions and Franck Ribery completed the rout.

Manchester City twice came from behind in Lyon after Maxwel Cornet delivered a man-of-the-match performance and scored a brace.

Cornet, who has not been used much this season, had plenty of chances and put the hosts ahead in the 55th with a strike in the top corner. Aymeric Laporte equalized in the 62nd with a header from a set-piece.

Sergio Aguero earned the point City needed to guarantee a top-two finish in Group F, heading in a corner from Riyad Mahrez in the 83rd minute —just after Cornet regained the lead for Lyon.

City leads the group on 10 points, three clear of second-place Lyon. The French team travels to Shakhtar Donetsk, which is two points further back in third, in two weeks with both teams still able to qualify.

UEFA will open a disciplinary case after Ajax's 2-0 win was preceded by violence inside Athens' Olympic Stadium and in parts of central Athens, mostly involving Greek fans who clashed with local rivals and riot police.

Neymar, center, scored the eventual game winner in Paris Saint-Germain's 2-1 victory over Liverpool. AP

SINCLAIR

From Page 32

495 is 2015 winner and No. 2 seed Ze Zchang, also from China. Zhang advanced to the Round of 8 following a straight set win over India's Sidharth Rawat, 6-4 6-2. Joining Sinclair and Zhang in the quarterfinals were Japan's Kaichi Uchida and Chinese-Taipei's Yu Hsiou Hsu, who eliminated Tung-Lin Wu, 7-6(4), 5-7, 7-6(6) and Tsung Hua Yang, 6-3, 6-1, respectively.

Four more quarterfinals berths are left and they will be disputed by No. 1 seed Duckhee Lee and No. 5 Yunseong Chung of South Korea, No. 3 Li Zhe of China, No. 6 Renta Tokuda of Japan, and the unranked Hayi Liu, Jie Cui, and Ridele Te of China, and India's Arjun Kadhe.

Meanwhile, Sinclair also played in the doubles, but he and Hong Kong's Pak Long Yeung were defeated by Chinese-Taipei's Hsien-Yin Peng and Jimmy Wang, 6-2, 6-3.

SBL

From Page 32

season as they also got the pennant title this year. The Bears earned a 17-1 record in the double-round robin regular season. The 17 victories came in streak and were recorded after the Bears dropped their first game in the season against the dethroned champions Aces, 4-14.

The Bears suffered their only defeat last March 9 before sweeping the remaining games in the elimination round and keeping their run in the semis after finishing off the Aces. The Bears eked out a 6-4 victory in Game 1 and then completed the sweep with a 10-7 triumph in Game 2.

GSM also took only two matches to move into the title series. It edged the Mariners in Game 1, 8-6, and closed out the semis showdown with an even tougher 9-8 triumph in Game 2.

FINALS

From Page 32

victory in the second when Kaga and Bird retired.

Meanwhile, in the boys U16 doubles, Lee and Cornish eased their way to the title match after demolishing Fiji's Lixin Chen and Jin Park in the semis, 4-0, 4-0. Lee and Cornish will vie for the division championship against No. 1 seed and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and Zachary Sands, who also blanked the Norfork Islands' Sam Cribb and Fiji's Yong Park in the other semis pairing.

The Final Four win in the doubles made up for Lee's defeat in the earlier singles semis. Molbaleh beat Lee, 6-1, 6-2, to set up an all-Vanuatu finale, as the former's compatriot prevailed over Noah Molbaleh in the other semis match, 6-1, 6-1.

Saints' winning streak should ring bell for Cowboys

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)— Drew Brees and the Saints have a chance to do something that should seem familiar to Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys. If it happens, New Orleans might even have the NFC South title already in hand by the end of the week.

The record-setting quarterback will go for an 11th straight win after a season-opening loss in a visit to the Cowboys on Thursday night. That's exactly what Dallas did when Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott were rookie sensations in 2016.

It won't be a franchise record the way it was for Dallas. The Cowboys might remember when New Orleans started 13-0 on the way to a Super Bowl title nine years ago, because they won on the road to start the Saints' season-ending three-game skid.

The Saints can't afford a similar slump if they want the NFC's top seed, which Dallas had with 13 wins two years ago. The Los Angeles Rams enter the week with the same 10-1 record. But New Orleans can wrap up the division title with four games remaining with a win and a Carolina loss at Tampa Bay on Sunday.

"You don't begin to count, but then you start beginning to do the things that are necessary to win," said Saints coach Sean Payton, architect of the two longest winning streaks in franchise history. "Generally, if you are going to have a decent team, you are going to win some games in a row. It is going to be hard not to if you aspire to get into the postseason."

The Cowboys (6-5) have a modest three-game run, capped by a Thanksgiving win over Washington that vaulted them to a tie for the NFC East lead with the Redskins. Questions about the future of coach Jason Garrett have been replaced by talk of a second division title in three years.

"We have all the confidence in ourselves," said Prescott, coming off a season-high 289 yards passing. "They put on their pants the same way we do. They've won 10, and I guess we've won three (in a row). As I've said, we're going to take it one game at a time. That's all that matters."

Brees, less than two months shy of his 40th birthday, leads the NFL in completion percentage and passer rating. The 23-year-old Elliott feels like a rookie again, with a chance to match his career-best run of four straight 100-yard games from 2016, when he won the rushing title.

With three consecutive games of at least 120 yards rushing, Elliott has overtaken Todd Gurley for the league rushing lead.

"I feel like I'm in a good place right now," said Elliott, who has 1,074 yards to 1,043 for Gurley. "Coaches have been doing a great job of putting me in runs where I'm comfortable and just getting me going early and letting me get that momentum and being able to carry it through the game."

Brees, an Austin native, cherishes his Texas roots and wasn't about to downplay his latest chance to visit the Cowboys. "I can't say it's no big deal," said Brees, who was in high school during the Dallas Super Bowl dynasty of the 1990s. "I remember waking up every Sunday morning and watching the Cowboys after church. That was a big deal growing up. I played a state championship game in the old Texas Stadium."

The NFL's all-time leader in passing yards has some memorable road victories against the Cowboys, starting with a blowout in prime time his first year with New Orleans in 2006. There was also a dramatic Thanksgiving comeback in 2010. Now he's having one of his best seasons. "I feel like we've had some really good teams when we played them," he said. "I feel like there's always been a lot at stake."

Meanwhile, the Cowboys have the fourth-best scoring defense in the NFL at 19.3 points per game. But the Saints have outperformed Dallas in that category the past three weeks, winning by an average score of 43-13, capped by a 31-17 Thanksgiving win over Atlanta . The Cowboys have allowed an average of 21 points during their winning streak.

LeBron reportedly ignoring Walton's play calls

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KAN PACIFIC POOL CLOSED

Finals stint for Conatsu, Sean

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Conatsu Kaga and Sean Lee continued their impressive showing in the Vanuatu Junior Regional Championship 2018.

Both are now in the finals with Kaga marching into the title game in the girls U16 singles and Lee moving into the championship match in the boys U16 doubles (with Fiji's Charles Cornish) yesterday at the Korman Tennis Centre in Port Vila.

The No. 2 seed Kaga made it to the finals after sweeping Japan's Rioko Umekuni in their Final Four tiff. The Commonwealth bet eked out a 7-6 win in the opener and then completed the straight set victory with an easier 6-1 triumph. Next up for Kaga is the No. 1 seed Rosalie Molbaleh, as the Vanuatu player won the other semis pairing after eliminating Tahiti's Vaiani Dussere-Valleaux, 6-4, 7-6.

Kaga and Molbaleh will dispute the girls U16 singles division crown tomorrow. Both players will enter the title game undefeated after five matches, as Kaga and Molbaleh swept their pool play assignments before dispatching their respective semis opponents.

After the singles semis match, Kaga took only a short breather and returned to the court for the doubles game. Fatigue eventually took its toll on Kaga and the Solomon Islands' Prudence Bird as they lost to Dussere-Valleaux and Umekuni in the semifinals. The eventual finalists won the first set 4-3, and got the free

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VANUATU TENNIS/RON ZWIERS
The CNMI's Conatsu Kaga waits for a shot from her opponent during a pool play game in the girls U16 singles event in the Vanuatu Junior Regional Championship 2018 at the Korman Tennis Centre in Port Vila.

SBL hands title to CK Bears

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears are the champions in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League.

"The SBL board met yesterday (last Wednesday) and by majority, the championship was awarded to the CK Bears," league coordinator Tony Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Bears took the opener of their best-of-five title series against Go See Mark, 8-5, last Oct. 22 or a few days before Super Typhoon Yutu slammed Saipan and Tinian. The Category 5 typhoon left the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield unplayable with the bleacher crumpled, the bases and ground washed out, and the lights and nets broken.

Rogolifoi, who is also the executive director of Northern Marianas Sports Association that manages the "Tan Ko" field and other facilities inside the Oleai Sports Complex, said it will take a while to fix the massive damage left by Yutu so there's no away that SBL could resume the title series.

With the Bears taking the finals win, they completed their domination of the 2018

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JON PEREZ
The Chalan Kanoa Bears' A.J. Lizama takes his time before pitching against the Mariners during a regular season game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Sinclair stuns China's two-time champion

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Colin Sinclair earned the biggest win in the opening day of the Australian Open 2019 Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff after pulling off an upset over China's two-time champion Di Wu.

The CNMI player swept the No. 8 seed Wu, 6-2, 6-3, last Wednesday in Zhuhai, China to advance to the quarterfinals and boost his bid for a slot in the Grand Slam tournament. Sinclair, according to the tournament website, used his big serves to stun the hometown bet. The website added that it was Sinclair's former coach, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's Jeff Race, who made it possible for the former CNMI junior player to get a wild card from Tennis Australia and moved closer to his dream of seeing action in the Australian Open.

"To play a Grand Slam would be huge. I grew up and played in Brisbane since I was 10, and I have a home there, so I'd love to play in the Australian Open," Sinclair was quoted as saying in the event website.

Up next for the world No.

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TENNIS AUSTRALIA
The CNMI's Colin Sinclair is in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open 2019 Asia-Pacific Wildcard Play-off